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VANISH: BUT WHERE?
Last-minute holiday sites rated

thenetcontents

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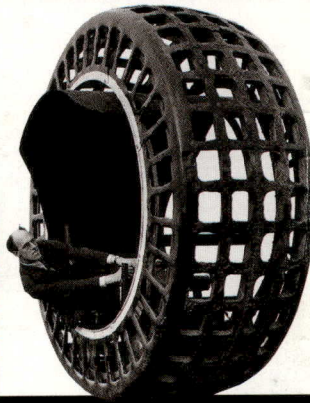
40 THE FAST SHOW
Get ready for the British GP with our pick of F1 online



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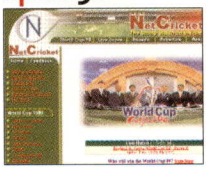

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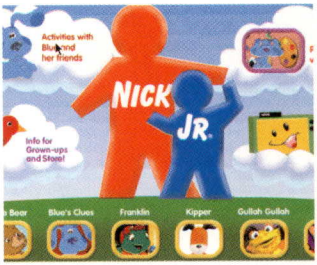

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Every month

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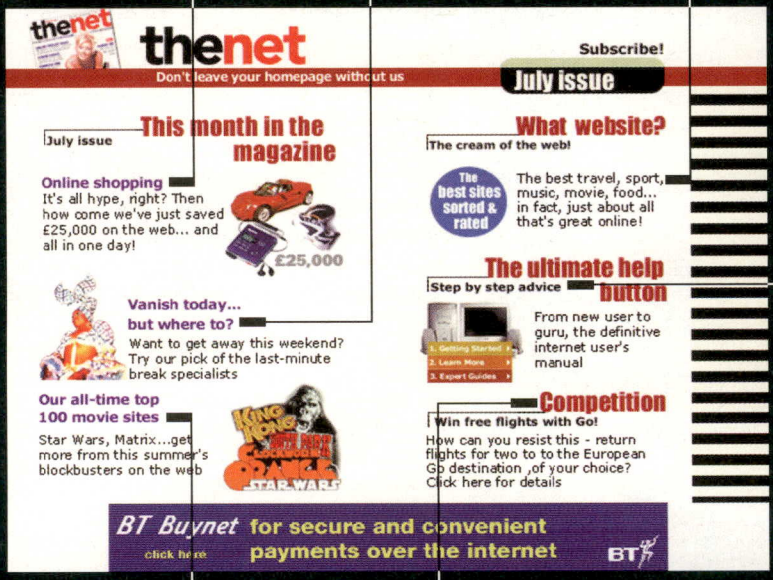
The mag's only half of the story

Think the magazine's good? For the icing on the cake see *www.thenetmag.co.uk*

Find every link from the mag's shopping expose at www.thenetmag.co.uk

Link direct to the great deals in our first issue's last-minute break feature

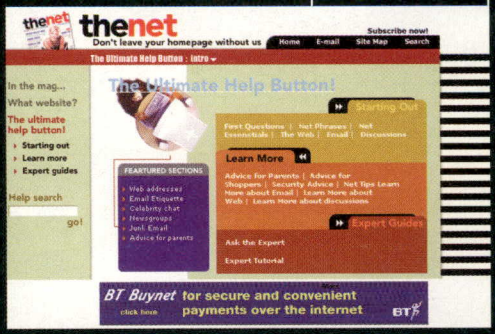
The ultimate online directory of great Web sites. Every month, we'll include the links from the latest issue – so if you're reading The Net and want to get to an address fast, you'll find it all just a click away



Your very own Internet masterclass. And what better place to hold it than online, where we can show in seconds how everything works and where it is? Our help section is built so no matter what your experience, you'll find a level to suit. While you're there, you can also check out the very latest software – reviewed, rated and ready to download

Appetite whetted by our Top 100 Movie Sites tale? The links are here

Get away from it all, free, with our great Go flight competition



Don't leave your homepage without it thenet

the net

Flick before you click

'We'll have 100s of good reasons to go online in every issue'

Welcome to your mini sampler of *the net*, a brand new kind of magazine that promises 100s of good reasons to go online in every issue. If you like what you read, you'll find the grown-up version on sale at newsagents now.

It's a magazine that's obsessed with the great things that the Internet can do for you. Like tapping directly into bottomless wells of information, free of charge. Or finding the holiday you want, without spending ages on the phone. Or sneaking previews of CDs online before you buy – and then at bargain prices. Or...the list is endless.

But even old hands go grey finding good sites. So we wanted a definitive guide to the Web, sorted and rated in every area that counts. Called What Website?, it's a unique 30-page listings section, indexed by subject and refreshed every month. Using it is as easy as flicking indexed pages – not battling with search engines.

Yes, imdb.co.uk can tell you anything you want to know about any movie. expedia.co.uk can save you big money on airline tickets. And the kids' homework answers are at bjpinchbeck.com.

Features in our launch issue include our hot guide to the 100 best Movie Sites, how to book a bargain getaway, and how we saved £25,000 online.

Our step-by-step internet advice guide will help, too, with everything from getting started through to advanced tips if you're already an expert.

But that's enough of the sales pitch. Pick up our complete first issue of *the net*– just £1.99 at newsagents now. It's the Internet magazine that might just change your life.

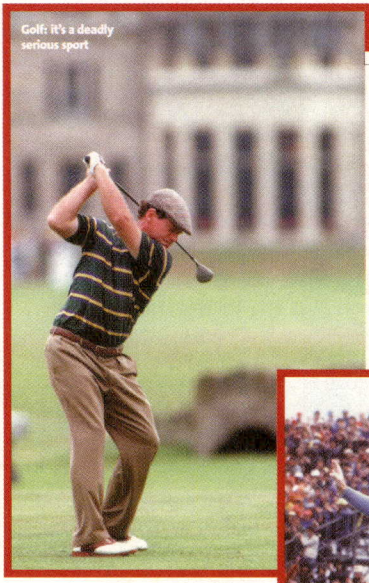
Tim McCann

Tim McCann, Editor

How to get the net – see the inside back cover

Mini-size sampler – full-size issue on sale at newsagents now

www.thenetmag.co.uk


Golf: it's a deadly serious sport

WORDS: PAUL WINSLOW; PICTURES: RETNA, REX, ALLSPORT

15 Club land

SAT **The British Open Golf Championship**

15-18 July, Carnoustie

Some people just love walking umpteen miles in wind, rain or shine hitting a little white golf ball as they go. Others think it's just as good to watch other people doing it, which is why the British Open is one of the most popular events on the world tour. And soon, the 128th Open hits Carnoustie, the sixth time the course has hosted the event. Golf fans will hope that this year matches 1998's drama, when Mark O'Meara took his second Grand Slam event of the year after a play-off, and a 17-year-old English amateur, Justin Rose, finished in fourth place.

www.opengolf.com

21 Strawberries and Dream

MON **Wimbledon Tennis Championships**

21 June–4 July, Wimbledon

'Game, set and championship, Tim Henman...' It's nice to think that you might hear those words come the end of the Wimbledon fortnight, but if you do, chances are you'll wake up soon after. What's certain is patriotism bordering on jingoism whenever Henman or Rusedski set foot on court, and exorbitantly priced strawberries. Oh, and Des Lynam being as smooth as the cream that's served with them. Turn to p92 for our pick of the tennis sites.

www.wimbledon.org

British tennis: ***www.british-tennis.freeserve.co.uk***

Sophie Rhys-Jones seems to have escaped the media

DEAR DIARY

JUNE 19 SATURDAY Wedding of **Prince Edward** and Sophie Rhys-Jones. Go to Royal Family at ***www. royal.gov.uk***

Dancing diva Paula Abdul arrived on the scene in 1962. Fan site at ***www.aet.cup.edu/~jakallis/paula/***

Garfield first appeared in 1978. ***www.garfield.com***

20 SUN **Cricket World Cup** final takes place at Lord's. Run to ***www.cricinfo.com***

Actor **Errol Flynn** swashbuckled into the world in 1909. Errol Flynn homepage at ***www.errolflynn.net***

Muhammad Ali convicted of draft dodging during the Vietnam War in 1967. The making of a champ at ***www.courier-journal.com/ali/***

21 MON **Wimbledon** Tennis Championships begin today. Official site at ***www.wimbledon.org***

Actress **Nicole Kidman** arrived with eyes wide open in 1967. Fan site at ***nicole kidman.org***

On the 22nd in 1949 **Meryl Streep** made her first cry in the dark . Fan site at ***www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/2844/meryl.html***

Crazed fan Mark Chapman pleaded guilty to the murder of **John Lennon** in 1981. Lennon site at ***www.workingclasshero.com***

23 WED **King Edward VIII**, well known abdicator of the realm, born in 1894. British Monarchy at ***www.royal.gov.uk***

The **British pound** was floated on the money markets in 1972. Financial Times at ***www.ft.com***

29 TUES *The Firm* actor **Gary Busey** joined us in 1944. Fan site at ***www.fortunecity.com/lavendar/ monkeys/140/***

Richard Branson made a record transatlantic crossing in the Virgin Atlantic Challenger II in 1986. Biography but no train timetables at ***www.newshook.com/files/virgin-bio.html***

30 WEDS Boxer **Mike Tyson** came out fighting (and biting!) in 1966. Humour at ***www.tysonbites.com***

The Alfred Hitchcock movie **Psycho** opened in 1960. Fan site at ***www.planetshowbiz.com/showbiz/psycho/psycho.html***

JULY 1 THURS **Althorp House**, resting place of Princess Diana, opens to the public for two months. Althorp House at ***www.althorp-house.co.uk***

Actress/model **Pamela Anderson** bust on to the scene in 1967. Official site at ***www.pamelaandersonlee.com***

2 FRI **Montreux Jazz Festival**, headlined by REM, begins on 6 July. Official site at ***www.montreuxjazz.com***

Angelic baby **Cheryl Ladd** born in 1951. Official site at ***www.CherylLadd.com***

US president **Lyndon B Johnson** signed sweeping 1964 Civil Rights Act. Case history at ***www.congresslink.org/civil/esscon.html***

3 SAT **Tour de France** begins today. Official site at ***www.letour.fr***

Actor **Tom Cruise** was born on the third of July in 1962. Fan site at ***www.tomcruise.fans.net***

Elizabeth Taylor announced her separation from Richard Burton in 1973. Elizabeth Taylor site at ***www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Boulevard/8612/liz/html***

9 FRI Forrest Gump actor **Tom Hanks** born in 1956 and life continued like a box of chocolates. Forrest Gump fan site at ***www.ionet.net/~lesinokc/gump/gump.html***

Jack Nicklaus became the fourth man to win all four major golf tournaments in 1966. Official site at ***www.nicklaus.com***

10 SAT **T in the Park** music festival begins, featuring Blur, Manic Street Preachers, Massive Attack. Official site: ***www.tinthepark.com***

The **Battle of Britain** began in 1940. History: ***www.geocities.com/Pentagon/4143/***

11 SUN The **British Grand Prix** at Silverstone. Unofficial site at ***www.formula1.com***

Yul Brynner made his magnificent entrance in 1915. Fan site at ***www.geocities.com/Hollywood/9766/brynner.html***

Baseball's **Babe Ruth**'s major league debut in 1914. Official site ***www.baberuth.com***

12 MON Comedian **Bill Cosby** raised his first smiles in 1937. New series site at ***marketing.cbs.com/primetime/cosby/***

E.T. broke box office records by passing $100m ticket sales in 31 days in 1982. Fan site at ***www.azstarnet.com/~newmann/et/***

13 TUES **Harrison Ford** made his first solo appearance in 1942. Fan site at ***harrisonford.indy-world.com***

Frank Sinatra made recording debut in 1939. Fan site at ***www.oswego.edu/~klentiz/SinatraPage/index2.html***

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June-July

Shouldn't of had that curry last night

26 Mud for it

SAT **Glastonbury Festival**

June 25-7, Glastonbury

Every year, a sleepy Somerset town becomes the centre of the music universe as over 600 hectares of beautiful countryside is transformed into the home of the best music festival around. Eighty thousand ticket-holders, 20,000 staff and God only knows how many fence-jumpers will attend, getting happy and high for a three-day extravaganza. Come hell or high water (and if recent years are anything to go by, high water is a real possibility), a good time will be had by all as REM head a line up of stars including Texas, Cast, Fat Boy Slim and the Fun Lovin' Criminals. And the Web site's great – for maps, acts... even jobs.

www.glastonbury-festival.co.uk

24 THURS Guitarist **Jeff Beck** started rocking this day in 1944. Official site at ***www.epicrecords.com/jeffbeck/***

Comedian **Tony Hancock** died this day in 1968. Appreciation Society at ***www.ncl.ac.uk/~nnac/***

25 FRI **Glastonbury** Festival starts in earnest today (see box)

Singer **George Michael** born in 1963. Official site at ***www.aegean.net***

The **Korean War** began as North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950. Korean War Project at ***www.koreanwar.org***

26 SAT England's **Rugby Union** team take on the mighty Australians in Sydney. Rugby Football Union at ***www.rfu.com***

Actor **Chris O'Donnell** made his first appearance as a baby boy wonder in 1970. Holy Web tights! Batman and Robin at ***www.batman-robin.com***

The bicycle was patented in 1819. Cyber Cyclery at ***cyclery.com***

27 SUN **French Grand Prix** at Magny-Cours. ITV's F1 site at ***www.itv-f1.com***

Author and deaf-blind heroine **Helen Keller** began her courageous life in 1880. RNIB at ***www.rnib.org.uk***

Barclays Bank introduced the UK's **first cash dispenser** machine in 1967. Barclays at ***www.barclays.co.uk***

28 MON Actor **Mel Brooks** started making people laugh in 1926. Fan site at ***userwww.service.emory.edu/~mgros/brooks/index.html***

England lost 1-0 to the USA in 1950 in one of the biggest **football shocks** ever. US Soccer Federation hits the Net at ***www.us-soccer.com***

4 SUN **Posh Spice** and **David Beckham** due to be married. Ring the bells at ***move.to/VictoriaAndDavid/***

America declared independence in 1776. History sources at ***www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook12.html***

5 MON Musician **Huey Lewis** made headline news for his parents on this day in 1950. Huey Lewis and the News at ***www.hln.org***

The **NHS** was launched this day in 1948. NHS at ***www.nhs50.nhs.uk***

6 TUES Actor **Sylvester Stallone** came into this rocky world in 1946. Fan site at ***members.xoom.com/4heat/***

Helmets made compulsory for motorbike riders in 1971. ***www.sph.emory.edu/Helmets/***

7 WEDS *Thomas the Tank* engine narrator (and Beatle) **Ringo Starr** chuffed out of his siding in 1940. Steam along to the Thomas Web site at ***www.thomasthetankengine.com***

Alanis Morissette begins UK tour in Newcastle. Site at ***www.alanismorissette.com***

8 THURS *Apollo 13* actor **Kevin Bacon** landed in 1958. Fan site at ***www.geocities.com/~ohmystars/***

Uniforms for **police in New York** city were authorised in 1693. NYPD Blue site at ***abc.go.com/primetime/nypd_blue/***

14 WEDS UK premiere of **Star Wars: The Phantom Menace**. Official Star Wars site at ***www.starwars.com***

Yabba dabba doo! **Flintstones** co-creator William Hanna got animated in 1910. Fan site at ***www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Academy/9455***

French Revolution began in 1789. Resource at ***members.aol.com/agentmess/frenchrev/index.html***

15 THURS The British **Open Golf Championship** tees off today at Carnoustie. Official site at ***www.opengolf.com***

Bob Dylan performed the largest outdoor concert for a single artist, playing in front of 200,000 fans at Blackbushe Airport, England in 1978. Official site at ***www.bobdylan.com***

16 FRI **Star Wars: The Phantom Menace** on general release. Official site at ***www.starwars.com***

First patter of **Ginger Rogers'** tiny dancing feet in 1911. Fan site at ***www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Rink/2589/fredgingercorner.html***

Nick Faldo equalled best single round in the British Open in 1993. Fan site at ***members.aol.com/chrisdicks/faldo.html***

17 SAT Actor **David Hasselhoff** surfed into the world in 1952. Official Baywatch at ***www.baywatchtv.com***

The **Beatles'** cartoon film *Yellow Submarine* premiered this day in 1968. Beatles film site at ***oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~ms538596/reelbeatles.html***

18 SUN **Nelson Mandela** born in 1918. Nelson Mandela page at ***www.anc.org.za/people/mandela/***

Then 14-year-old gymnast **Nadia Comaneci** scored seven perfect 10 scores at the 1976 Olympic Games. Fan site at ***www.nadiacomaneci.com***

We save £25,

*in just one working day

THE NET CHALLENGE Is shopping online really that cheap and easy? Our man with the credit card sees just how much you can get off high-street prices on the Web – and saves a cool £25,749.96

1 Holiday home

WANTED **A getaway holiday home in the States, suitable for a family, preferably with picturesque views and local amenities.**

NET SHOPPER The Yahoo! search directory at ***www.yahoo.com*** points us to extensive lists of US homes for sale, offered by the owners, cutting out (real) estate agents and red tape. Our pick is a two-bedroom log chalet in Delaware County, NY state, at ***remarket.com/fera.html***. It's a snip at around £90,000, especially with 'deer, turkey and bears' on hand. Not sure that too much fraternising with the bears would be a good idea, though.

SEARCH TIME 15 minutes

SITE The Real Estate Market Space at ***remarket.com***

COST £90,000

ON THE HIGH STREET Phone calls to US-based real estate firms bring little joy. Re/Max, the largest in Delaware and not online, reckons we'd pay around £115,000 if it sold us our chalet. But the company representative warns us that buying property online has drawbacks: 'The Internet's a promotional thing. You have to do the paperwork yourself.' For a £25,000 saving, we think it's worth the effort.

SEARCH TIME One hour

STORE Re/Max Real Estate Agents, Delaware, New Jersey

COST £113,000

NET SAVING £23,000

2 Classic car

WANTED **A classic sports car fit for a lady or gentleman of leisure.**

NET SHOPPER The Net has become a hive of used-car activity in the last couple of years. At ***cars.classics.co.uk*** a private owner in our area is advertising a 1960 Triumph Herald Convertible with full MoT for £2850. No dealer, no hidden extras, and under 10 miles to travel to see the vehicle.

SEARCH TIME 20 minutes

SITE Classic Cars and Parts at ***cars.classics.co.uk***

COST £2850

ON THE HIGH STREET *Classic Motor Monthly*'s price guide at ***www.classicmotor.co.uk*** says that our motor should be worth

THE MISSION Prove that web shopping's the way forward **THE RESULTS** Astonishing!

000 online*

between three and four thousand notes. Oldtimer London, the capital's biggest classic dealership, prices our Herald at around £3500. If you know anything about cars, it pays to cut out the middleman.
SEARCH TIME 30 minutes
STORE Oldtimer London
COST £3500
NET SAVING £650

3 Portable MiniDisc

WANTED **A state-of-the-art MiniDisc portable, at a keen price.**
NET SHOPPER One of the great things about the MiniDisc Now site is its stock of latest stuff. With kit from the US and Japan at discount prices, you can not only have a bargain on your hands but also get hold of the last word in personal audio months before your mates. The Sony MZ-R55, a tiny new portable recorder currently on sale in the US and Japan only, can be yours for a jaw-dropping £208. Only thing is, you might need a UK adaptor at £25 from Sony spares on 01784 466111.
SEARCH TIME Two minutes
SITE ***www.minidiscnow.com***
COST £208
ON THE HIGH STREET The bloke we speak to at Dixons hasn't even heard of the MZ-R55. He eventually decides that it won't be available here for 'months'. Instead, he points us at an older, bulkier and less sexy MZ-R50 model priced at £249. The Internet wins again.
SEARCH TIME 25 minutes
STORE Dixons
COST £249.99
NET SAVING £41.99

4 DVD player

WANTED **It's the latest audio-visual fad – but why pay through the nose for shiny new DVD hardware?**
NET SHOPPER If you're willing to hunt around and hedge your bets on dealing with private advertisers), the specialist DVD newsgroup has a generous selection of players for sale by gadget enthusiasts. We find a natty Pioneer DVL-909, six months old and ready-modified to work in all regions, for £490 including delivery.
SEARCH TIME 45 minutes
NEWSGROUP ***uk.media.dvd***
COST £490
ON THE HIGH STREET Nowhere on Tottenham Court Road, London's consumer electronics 'golden mile', is there a cheaper DVD player. An assistant in one shop reluctantly agrees that we've got a bargain – the best he can do is a slightly newer model for £850. He admits that the only difference is slightly better sound quality – and he asks us for the newsgroup's address.
SEARCH TIME One hour
STORES Various
COST £850
NET SAVING £360

5 Lingerie

WANTED **Tasteful lingerie we can buy without embarrassment.**

NET SHOPPER The rather wonderful Lingerie Label site can take care of all your undergarment needs without any need for you to leave the privacy of your own home. We settle on a Playtex 18-hour Corselette at a handy £29.59.

SEARCH TIME 15 minutes.
SITE ***www.lingerielabel.co.uk***
COST £29.59

ON THE HIGH STREET If you're a bloke, shopping for women's underwear doesn't come easily unless you're either stunningly shameless or a bit strange. It's humiliating, confusing and there's the risk of being spotted by someone you know. After a lot of fumbling, Littlewoods takes care of us – but, at £37, is it worth all the stress?
SEARCH TIME 30 minutes
COST £37

NET SAVING £7.41

6 Refrigerator

WANTED **Something cool for the kitchen, with an extended warranty in case of meltdown.**

NET SHOPPER Online store freeNET Electrical stocks a sleek-looking Hotpoint Diamond refrigerator for £159.99, warranty thrown in. Delivery takes from three to 28 days and costs an extra 26 notes. You can't get a decent view of the product before you buy here, so best bet is to wander round a high-street store or two to select your model then come back to check the price online.
SEARCH TIME 15 minutes
SITE ***www.freenet.ltd.uk***
COST £186.99

14 Star Wars toys

WANTED **Some of those new Phantom Menace toys to keep the Jedi tots jolly.**

NET SHOPPER All the kids (and, of course, the grown-ups) who've become bored with their ancient *Star Wars* relics can rejoice in the new range of *Phantom Menace* figures, which began to land in our toy departments back in March. So far, though, the choice has been somewhat limited in this country. As usual, the Yanks keep their own kids a step ahead and the complete selection is available from shops over there.
A pack of three figures costs £57 including shipping from the US toy giant FAO Schwarz's Web site.
SEARCH TIME 30 minutes.
SITE ***www.fao schwarz.com***
COST £57

ON THE HIGH STREET Hamley's only stocks one stormtrooper figure, at £21.99, and doesn't offer any of the A-list characters. In any case we're after a pack of three, which at these prices would set us back almost £66. The Force is not with Britain's prestige toy store, it seems.
SEARCH TIME 30 minutes
STORE Hamley's
COST £65.97

NET SAVING £8.97

ON THE HIGH STREET The same fridge will set you back £40 more at Tempo, which has a reputation as one of the more competitively priced electrical retailers. And here the warranty's £55 extra. Delivery's around a week – but you can't buy anything till you've spent a good half-hour listening to a salesman trying to tempt you into something more expensive.
SEARCH TIME 40 minutes
STORES Tempo
COST £254.99

NET SAVING £68

7 Hamsters CD

WANTED **A rare CD recording of The Hamsters' 1995 live release *Route 666*, featuring the legendary 17-minute *Rocket In My Pocket*.**

NET SHOPPER Audiostreet has the CD at a reasonable £10.99. It lets you look at the track listing and even download MP3 files of two tracks. Try before you buy. A cellophane-wrapped *Route 666* CD arrives in three days.
SEARCH TIME Seven minutes
SITE ***www.audiostreet.com***
COST £10.99

ON THE HIGH STREET They haven't even heard of The Hamsters in the HMV or Virgin stores we visit, though both can order the album to arrive within three weeks. Tower Records does have a copy of *Route 666* – but wants an extortionate £16.99 for it.
SEARCH TIME 40 minutes
STORES HMV, Virgin Megastore, Tower Records
COST £16.99

NET SAVING £6.00

8 Gent's watch

WANTED **A fashionable, reliable timepiece – low-priced but not off the back of a lorry.**

NET SHOPPER A quick whizz around the online equivalent of Hatton Garden, the Half Price Jewellers site, yields a gold-plated gent's Rotary watch: £89.50 to you, guv, taking postage and packing into account. Delivery is prompt, and there's an extensive collection of other cheap jewellery on the site.
SEARCH TIME 10 minutes
SITES ***www.hpj.co.uk***
COST £89.50

ON THE HIGH STREET HM Samuel, just about the cheapest of the high-street jewellery chains, has the identical watch at £139.99. Who says British shoppers are being ripped off?
SEARCH TIME 25 minutes
STORES HM Samuel
COST £139.99

NET SAVING £50.49

Ferret about a bit on the Net to save heaps on Hamsters

9 Desktop PC

WANTED **A state-of-the-art Net-ready PC for home and business, with plenty of extras.**

NET SHOPPER Buying a PC is a minefield – can the Net guide you to the other side before you're blown to bits? If in doubt, take the direct route. Fancying the look of the Hewlett Packard Brio B7100, we go straight to the maker's site and pick it up for £544.85, including monitor. If you'd like some advice on choosing your new computer, visit the IT Reviews site at ***www.itreviews.co.uk*** (or you could save yourself a whole lot of hassle and simply buy an Apple iMac – you'll find a good-value carriage-free deal. at ***www.dabs.com***).
SEARCH TIME 20 minutes
SITES Hewlett Packard UK at ***www.hp.com/uk***
COST £544.85

ON THE HIGH STREET Prices in the computer 'superstores' are stratospheric by comparison, and they invariably try to steer you to different, more expensive models. Our Hewlett Packard

WORDS: ROBERT JEFFERY; PICTURES: REX, KOBAL

Mini-size sampler – full-size edition on sale at your newsagents now

goes for £850 at Software Warehouse. Insight, a relatively frugal mail order service which regularly advertises in PC mags, has the Brio for £632.
SEARCH TIME 90 minutes
STORE Insight
COST £632
NET SAVING £87.15

10 Four-poster bed

WANTED A bit of decadent luxury to retire to. How about a self-assembly four-poster?
NET SHOPPER McCord, which we tracked down via the UK Plus search directory at ***www.ukplus.co.uk***, has a kit for £229, along with assorted home and garden paraphernalia.
SEARCH TIME 25 minutes
SITE: ***www.mccord.uk.com***
COST £229
ON THE HIGH STREET You might not come across this particular extravagance readily in your local town centre but Ikea sells a cracking four-poster for £329, flat-packed with instructions. If taking the concept of making your own bed to such extremes sounds daunting, better have a lie-down before you start the assembly procedure.
SEARCH TIME 75 minutes
STORE: Ikea
COST £329
NET SAVING £100

11 Designer clothes

WANTED Fashionable trousers and shirt – well-known brands but nothing too over the top – and no daft designer price tags.
NET SHOPPER They say you can buy Versace kit in the States for the price of a C&A ski jacket. Looks as though they're right. Make sure your first stop for anything fashion-related is the US Web site of Designers Direct. A pair of Levi 501s (now trendy once again thanks to some loose-limbed yellow puppet) is just £35.52, including delivery. A Ralph Lauren polo shirt to complete the outfit costs £32.
SEARCH TIME Five minutes
SITES ***www.designersdirect.com***
COST £67.52
ON THE HIGH STREET Struggling round the shops in search of something to match that is a fruitless endeavour. The Levi Store in Oxford Street will hit you in the wallet to the tune of £49.99 for the same pair of jeans. Even at discount designer store Amazon, the Ralph Lauren shirt is £39.99.

Four-poster for nowt

Got the bottle? Spurn your local offie – order wine direct from the country of origin

10 White wine

WANTED Something a bit exotic, at a mid-range price. Surely the Net can't beat Oddbins?
NET SHOPPER A bit of browsing through Yahoo! or the online shopping directory Shops on the Net will direct you to a plethora of vineyards and small suppliers online. After much deliberation, we plump for six bottles of Stony Brook, an inexpensive independent South African Chardonnay, which come to £51 from **www.lacotte.co.za** including shipping.
SEARCH TIME 30 minutes
SITE Shops on the Net at ***www.sotn.com*** then ***www.lacotte.co.za***
COST £51
ON THE HIGH STREET An equivalent wine from Oddbins (the Welmoed Chardonnay was deemed most closely comparable), weighs in at £10.99 per bottle.
SEARCH TIME 20 minutes
STORE Oddbins
COST £65.94
NET SAVING £14.95

15 Novelty glasses

WANTED 'Hilarious' joke spectacles to amaze your friends and make you the life and soul of any party.
NET SHOPPER The spiritual home of online mirth can be pulled out of the hat at Archie McPhee's site. Among delights on offer here are rubber chickens, monkey candles, Buddha lunchboxes and Easter Island statues galore. The silly specs are £10.24 for a set of two pairs.
SEARCH TIME 15 minutes
SITE ***www.mcphee.com***
COST £10.24
ON THE HIGH STREET Hamley's doesn't stock novelty glasses, and Toys 'R Us doesn't do jokes, full stop, as far as we can tell. The only goofy glasses in sight are at hippy kitsch store Urban Outfitters, at £5.99 each – a small but significant extra cost.
SEARCH TIME One hour
STORES Hamley's, Toys 'R Us, Urban Outfitters
COST £11.98
NET SAVING £1.74

SEARCH TIME 40 minutes
STORES The Levi Store, Amazon
COST £89.98
NET SAVING £22.46

13 Flights to Oz

WANTED London-Sydney flights for three people, for a three-week trip, mid-December to January.
NET SHOPPER Eureka! Microsoft's excellent Expedia travel shop finds direct flights on the (very busy) dates we specified for £1640 each. The information is excellent and the tickets arrive in two days. The site's only drawback is having to restart the whole process every time if a particular flight turns out to be unavailable.
SEARCH TIME 15 minutes
SITE ***expedia.co.uk***
COST £4920
ON THE HIGH STREET BA wants £2100 each for the same tickets. And after an hour trying to get through, Trailfinders (normally spot-on) only has flights via Hong Kong for £150 more each.
SEARCH TIME 75 minutes
STORES BA, Trailfinders
COST £6300
NET SAVING £1380

TOTAL SAVING £25,799.16

WHAT TO DO WITH THE CHANGE

Far be it from us to dictate what you should do now – but we'd head off to the nearest Lotus dealer and splash the cash on a brand-new Elise. As a bit of a bonus, how about taking three months or so off work?

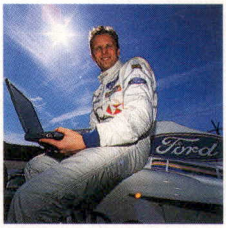
On 11 July, the flag-waving speedfest known as the British Grand Prix hits Silverstone. And just so you're braced for the blast, here's our pick of the very best of F1 online – with a little help from Web-mad F1 ace, Johnny Herbert

the fast show

QUITE A MAN, JOHNNY HERBERT. ON 11 July, the top-flight driver with the Stewart-Ford team will take to the Silverstone track for the start of the 1999 British Grand Prix. And as he sits on the grid, he might just think back to the horrific crash at Brands 11 years ago that so nearly took his life.

Yet like so many people who've faced their own mortality, 36-year-old Herbert is now decidedly chipper in outlook, and a well-liked character on the circuit. He's also, as luck would have it, the biggest advocate of the Net among the F1 driving community.

A self-confessed gadget freak, Herbert goes online when and wherever he can – even at the track. In fact, when we caught up with him back in April at the Jerez testing circuit (in preperation for the Spanish GP), he was still surfing between drives.



'Villeneuve's the only other driver who uses the Internet a lot. But then he's a games junkie'

So you're an Internet and gadget freak?

I confess to being a gadget man, yes. Because I'm constantly on the move, I use a Hewlett Packard Omnibook 4150. But after seeing the new Palm Pilot, I was just smitten. I had to get my hands on one. They're ideal for sending email, and at the moment I seem to spend most of my time online visiting the Palm Pilot Web site, downloading new software for it.

What else do you use the Internet for?

I'm currently signed up with AOL. Most of the time, I'm either emailing or surfing the Web to get news and and F1 info. Having a mobile Internet connection means I can download the engineers' information on my car and the day's running, and then look over the details back in my hotel room.

You ought to have your own site

I have! It's at ***www.JohnnyHerbert.co.uk***. It carries news, photos, interviews and fan club details. Also, there's regularly updated race results. The site's looked after by my mate, David, who was helping my mum and dad with the fan club. He's the sort of computer whizz-kid who really enjoys putting the site together. I guess I'm lucky that way.

Any clever stuff on the site?

We ran a video message from the Web site of me speaking from a Brazillian race, which people could download. Then at a training session, we took pictures with a digital camera which were also put online. I also try to make sure that users get the very latest information from testing sessions and stuff like that.

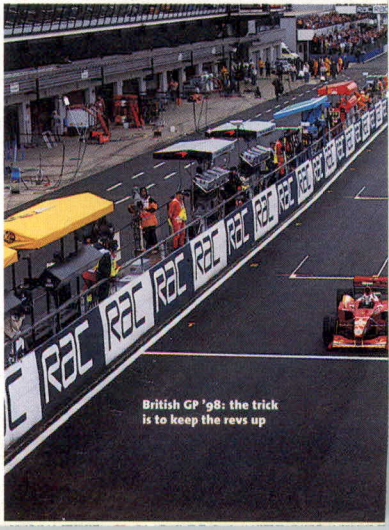
Formula 1's big news on the Net. Do the other drivers share your enthusiasm?

Jacques Villeneuve's the only other driver I know who uses the Internet a lot. But he uses it for interactive games, which he plays all the time. He's a games junkie; every time I see him, he's wrapped up in a new one. When I saw him last, he told me about a game where you go into the middle of a jungle with just a phone line to aid your survival. He's a strange boy.

Which Formula 1 sites do you recommend, then?

I like to look at rallying and F3 news

The Jordan Girls: fighting for women's rights, bless 'em



British GP '98: the trick is to keep the revs up

GO ONLINE...SAVE £150!

www.silverstone-circuit.co.uk

You could, of course, make your way to Silverstone to watch the British GP live on 11 July – but, as the track's official site so alarmingly conveyed as we went to press, you'll need to shell out a wholesome £150 for a 'reserved Grandstand seat'. And even they were selling like hot cakes, with 'Limited' stamped across the online booking form. Otherwise, tickets were still available for practice days. And if that's OK by you, first try the site's interactive circuit guide, with its at-a-click map that'll soon have you knowing your Becketts from your Copse.

Herbert enjoying quiet Sunday afternoon drive. 'I am not a geek,' he says

HERBERT'S HOT LINKS

Johnny Herbert Online
www.JohnnyHerbert.co.uk
So good, it probably contains things that even he doesn't know about

F1 Racing & ITV F1 ***www.itv-f1.com***
As enthralling as the televisual version, but without the commercial breaks

MCI Racing – Formula 1
www.mciracing.com/f1_buzz.html
Get the latest buzz from the F1 world in this comprehensive section of the MCI site

Stuart's Stewart Grand Prix page
http://www.geocities.com/MotorCity/7654/
It's the fans that count – and this is dedicated to Johnny's team

Stewart GP Online
http://drive.to/stewartf1/
The essential bookmark for the official line on all that's happening with Herbert's car

Sandman's Motorsport Page
www.sandmanmotorsports.com
A comprehensive site offering a mountain of information

Formula 1 Cartoon Archive
www.foca.co.uk
It may be a deadly serious sport, but you need to have a laugh sometimes

Autosport Online ***www.autosport.com***
Recently revamped news, facts, figures, photo galleries and links from the motorsport bible. First for bang up-to-date race results

Atlas F1 News Page
http://www.atlasf1.com/news/
The equivalent of your weekly F1 newspaper, and you don't even have to order it from your local newsagent

SITES WITH THE WINNING FORMULA

Waste hours hunting down the Web's F1 coverage. Or read this.

FOR KEEPING UP-TO-SPEED

F1-Live
www.f1-live.com/GB
Regularly updated news and profiles of the teams, drivers, and championship points

Formula 1.com
www.Formula1.com
Another daily updated news site, this runs all the usual driver and team profiles

Cygnet Formula One
www.cygnetf1.com
Gives a great light-hearted, stat-free overview. Well worth a visit when you've had enough of facts and figures

www.Formula1.com - news, stats, tickets and more

FOR THE DEDICATED ENTHUSIAST...

F1 Rumors
http://f1rumors.net
Your spy in the paddocks – all of the latest gossip (which means that there's rather a lot to read on this site)

FOSA (Formula One Supporters Association)
www.fosa.org
A non-profit organisation set up by people who care about the sport – and it's even free to become a member

The British F1 Fan Page
www.brit-f1.co.uk
Profiles and news on the four British hopes in the 1999 Championship

FOR THE STATTO IN YOU...

FORIX
www.forix.com/
The F1 Results & Information Explorer is a site that looks at the history of F1 since 1950, but also carries contemporary news

FIA Formula One Championship
www.fia.com
The home of the world championship holds masses of information, including the FIA regulations that govern racing in 1999

Formula 1 Driver Stats site
albedo.net/~marko/main/f1index.htm
Includes lists of all the point-scoring drivers in Formula 1 since the inception of the World Championship in 1950

FOR THE MISSING LINKS

F1 Links Heaven
www.linksheaven.com
Whoever your favourite driver, whatever your favourite team or whatever your particular interest – you'll find it here

WORDS: KATE TAYLOR. PICTURES: DARREN HEATH/LAT

sometimes. I probably use *Autosport*'s site most, but I also look at *Atlas* and *F1 Live*. *Sporting Life* is really good as well. AOL has its own F1 news in the *Autosport* section, and I can link straight through to the big CNN and BBC sites from there to get more general sports information.

'There's no better place to race in F1 than on your home circuit, roared on by your home crowd'

Damon, you can stop smiling now. Damon?

What about the Stewart Ford site, which launches this summer?
It'll be packed with team and race information, so that people can keep up to date with the drivers, cars and the championship. In the meantime, Stewart fans can keep up to date via my site. We'll be putting a live link in place to the Stewart GP site once it launches.

Does your family share your Net passion?
My daughters, Chloe and Amelia, both have computers. Chloe's got a Hewlett Packard PC that I bought about a year ago, and Amelia has one of my old laptops. But they're not that keen, to be honest, unless it has a picture of a horse or a dog on it! But I like the idea of them using the Internet for help with their homework: my eldest is currently studying the Romans at school, so I'd like to try to find some sites with her that could help out with her studies.

Any drawbacks to using the Net?
It can be addictive, sure. You can surf away to your heart's content, unaware of how long you've been online. It's so easy to say, "I'll just be five minutes," and before you know it, an hour or two has passed. But I don't think that you're automatically weird or geeky if you use the Net. It depends totally on what you're using it for. The fact

Mini-size sampler – full-size edition on sale at your newsagents now

Herbert: 'You're not automatically weird if you use the Internet'

that you can access information about any subject is just so helpful.

With the British GP just around the corner, what are your thoughts on this year's race?

Obviously, there's no better place to race in F1 than on your home circuit, roared on by your home crowd. As it was the scene of my first victory back in 1995, Silverstone holds special memories for me. It was my most memorable racing moment – the sense of achievement was tremendous. It finally banished the memory of my Formula 3000 accident in 1988.

What was going through your mind as you saw the chequered flag?

I endured a lot of pain and mental anguish during the rehabilitation period since the crash and to win my own Grand Prix in front of my home supporters was something I'll never forget. My first thoughts as I approached the finishing line were not of victory, but of all the pain and frustration I'd gone through in the past, and the wonderful support I'd received from my wife to make a day like that possible.

Maybe, just maybe...Herbert after '95 British GP win

STARTING GRID

Get connected to this year's British GP teams and drivers

McLAREN
www.mclaren.co.uk
The winners of last year's constructor's championship have a site to die for – with exclusive games, screensavers and even a members' club

MIKA HAKKINEN
www.mikahakkinen.net
Reigning world champion. Say no more
DAVID COULTHARD ***www.nevis.co.uk/coulthard***
Popular Scot keen to move on championship

FERRARI
www.ferrari.it
Schumacher may make them favourites for a win here, but their site is mid-grid at best. Big on words, short on fun

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER
www.michael-schumacher.org
Acknowledged as the finest of his generation
EDDIE IRVINE ***www.geocities.com/MotorCity/7864/***
Winner in Australia, and a good bet here, too

WILLIAMS-SUPERTECH
cool.virtual-pc.com/williams
The team may be in a 'transitional phase', but their site's a howl – you can even get a Williams Web-based email address!

ALEX ZANARDI ***pages.sssnet.com/sevans***
Didn't race last year, and the jury's still out
RALF SCHUMACHER ***www.williams-bmw.de***
Consigned to living in the shadow of his brother. Can't quite match his talent, but he's still very quick

JORDAN
www.jordangp.com
The pressure will be on Eddie and Damon next month. Still, at least their Shockwaved site has won a few awards...

DAMON HILL ***www.damonhill.co.uk***
Still capable of a win – especially at home
HEINZ-HARALD FRENTZEN ***www.frentzen.de***
Another driver theoretically capable of winning the British GP, but we won't hold our breath

BENETTON
www.jtnet.ad.jp/WWW/JT/Event/F1
With two good drivers, could well be in the points. Just a shame that their site's as flat as the proverbial pancake

GIANCARLO FISICHELLA ***www.fisico.com***
Now in his fourth F1 season, didn't register a win prior to '99. Promising start to the year, though
ALEXANDER WURZ ***www.wurz.com***
Now in only his second full season, and showing the potential to be overdue a big race

SAUBER
www.sauber.ch
Red Bull sponsorship doesn't seem to have given them wiings yet... even if their official site's a flier

JEAN ALESI ***www.geocities.com/MotorCity/3907***
How can a man only win one out of 150 races?
PEDRO DINIZ ***www.pedrodiniz.com***
The *Sun* headline when his car blew up a few years ago? 'Diniz in the oven.' A headline writers' dream

ARROWS
www.arrows.com
320 races, one pole position – Arrows needs to flatter its fans. Which their site does in spades; screensavers, interactive maps – even an online chat from May 1

PEDRO DE LA ROSA ***www.arrows.com/driver14.htm***
Made his GP debut this year; did brilliantly to grab a point in his first race
TORANOSUKE TAKAGI ***www.toranosuke-takagi.com***
Apparently his name means 'tiger', but in GP terms hardly going from strength to strength

STEWART FORD
drive.to/stewartf1
Jackie Stewart's finding it harder to run a team than drive in someone else's. Only a fan site live now – official site due soon

RUBENS BARRICHELLO ***surf.to/rubinho***
Yet to realise full potential, but still scoring points.
JOHNNY HERBERT ***www.johnnyherbert.co.uk***
Would prove a phenomenally popular winner at Silverstone. But in reality, points would be a victory

PROST
www.prostgp.com
A million miles away from achieving the podium, even if their site's so fact-packed as to be of value to any F1 fan

OLIVIER PANIS ***freespace.virgin.net/rod.dton***
Chance of winning so slim it might snap
JARNO TRULLI ***www.omnibus.net/trulli***
Murray Walker thinks he's a future world champ

MINARDI
www.minardi.it
Being liked is little use if you're a perennial back-marker. Sadly, the site is equally likely to hog the rear of the grid

LUCA BADOER ***www.minardi.it/badoer_eng.html***
Highly regarded as tester for Ferrari, but won't finish in the points
MARC GENÉ ***www.marcgene.com***
Despite pedigree, has yet to show top dog form

BRITISH AMERICAN RACING
www.basford72.freeserve.co.uk/
A new team with money – although right now, their site's the product of an ardent fan

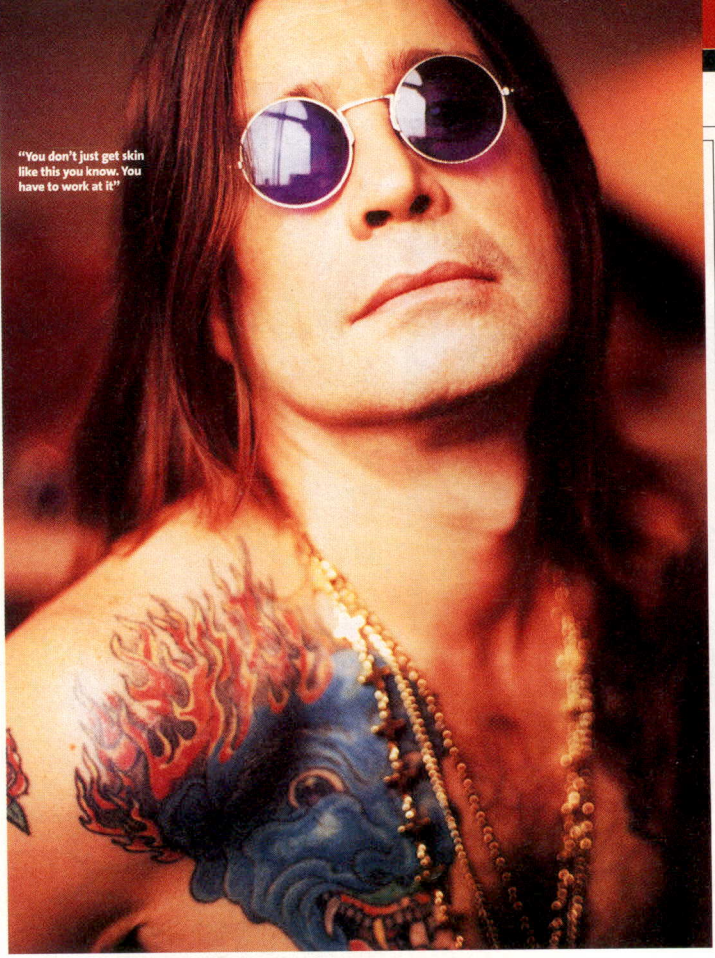
JACQUES VILLENEUVE ***www.jacques.villeneuve.com***
Of the four world champs in this season's field, Jacques looks furthest away the podium
RICARDO ZONTA ***www.ricardozonta.com.br***
23 year-old Brazilian in his rookie season

ILLUSTRATION: RUSSAL LEWIS

HEAVY METAL

Full metal racket

Allegedly it's now cool to be a heavy metal fan again. Here are some stomping sites



"You don't just get skin like this you know. You have to work at it"

WORDS: ROBERT JEFFERY; PICTURES: RETNA

AEROSMITH

www.aerosmith.com ★★★

Steven Tyler's veteran rockers have recently gone a bit soft on their adoring public and this site is less raunchy than the fan pages available. Still, the chance to read chunks of the band's autobiography for free will please devotees, all the hits are here to download and the Tyler Q&A is a must: 'What's your favourite sport?' 'Doing the horizontal mambo.' Rock and roll, eh?

Hairy Tyler the Mambo king, currently vertical

BIG HAIR

bighair.somewhere.net ★★★

Fancy a trip down memory lane to the days when poodle perms were rife and Def Leppard were taken seriously? LA Guns, Guns 'n' Roses, Vixen and Twisted Sister are all here, and the links come fast and furious. The musical redundancy of most of the bands means that one visit will be enough, but it's good to discover that Motley Crue are still touring.

IRON MAIDEN

www.ironmaiden.co.uk ★★★

Britain's moshpit favourites are cruising for a windfall with this merchandise-mad site. Posters, flags, CDs and T-shirts are accompanied by the advice 'Go Crazy – Buy Everything!' If you manage to keep your wallet in your pocket, you'll need to download every plug-in ever invented to navigate the news and tour dates section, but the content is worth the wait.

KISS

www.kissonline.net ★★★★

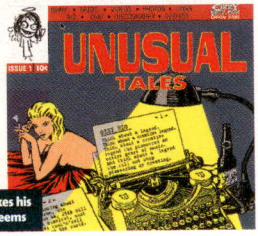
The *Crazy Nights* hitmakers present a zappy news and merchandise service. Band members are heavily involved in the site, which makes a refreshing change, and they regularly contribute chats as well as their very own random thoughts on the world (to be savoured by one and all). The Kiss Army Depot is absolutely hilarious – anyone for a speaking doll that 'belts out a tune from the *Destroyer* album'? Only $600 for a set of four. Mmn nice.

Ozzy Osbourne

www.ozzynet.com ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

'Ozzy is all about thousands upon thousands of real people who love a great time letting go... getting crazy,' boasts the opening sequence of the Black Sabbath frontman's must-see site. And you thought it was something to do with cruel behaviour toward farmyard animals. The old poultry-worrier has really delivered the goods here. Ozzynet is visually stunning, with some superb original artwork and scary animation featuring very big knives. Ozzy tells us how he kicked the booze and drugs, and previews the latest Sabbath album. Rocks like a beast.



Ozzy: he likes his comics, it seems

MEGADETH

www.megadeth.com ★★★

A real shocker this one. The metal band's metal band is actually an ISP. Yup, competing with such bastions of society as Tesco and Dixons, Megadeth.net offers all the eminently respectable benefits of a standard ISP: a Megadeth email address (got to be worth it for this alone), 10Mb of personal Web space and so on. The site, however, offers something you won't find on TescoNet: the chance to be the next Miss Megadeth.

METALLICA

www.elektra.com/retro/metallica/index.html ★★★

Avoid the disappointing official site for metal's biggest band and steer yourself instead to this nifty fan

DIARY 25-27 June Glastonbury Festival, REM, Fun Lovin' Criminals, Texas and Fat Boy Slim 10-11 July T in the Park,
www.glastonbury-festival.co.uk

Mini-size sampler – full-size edition on sale at your newsagents now

Unofficial sites – I spit on them I do

effort. Inside you'll find guitar tabs for every song Lars and co have written, plus gig reviews and one mother of a news section. Be warned, though – design leaves a lot to be desired, and you won't find a link to **w3.to/boycott_metallica**, which lists six good reasons to avoid them like the plague, including the pretty convincing 'because it gives you something to do'.

METAL RULES

www.metal-rules.com ★★★

This full-on site is about the best place on the Web for general metal news and new releases. Track down that obscure Bolt Thrower EP or add your own review to the online library. The 'Where are They Now' section for long-forgotten perm-wearers is priceless and the interview archive is reasonably comprehensive.

MARILYN MANSON

www.marilynmanson.net

★★★★

The bane of the puritan American right hits the Net, with predictably wild results. Graphically impressive, as dark as you'd expect from the androgynous doom-monger, MansonNet is let down only by lack of updating. Don't forget to have a snigger at the Christian Family Network's anti-MM propaganda at **www.cfnweb.com/manson**.

ZEN AND THE ART OF THE MOSHPIT

www.altx.com/interzones/gangsta/mosh.html

★★★

Please God, when I grow up I want to be a proper little madam

Presentation values are non-existent but advice on moshpit etiquette is priceless: 'When people fall down, you must try to pick them up. Fallen moshers might get trampled and cause others to trip and fall. It benefits everyone to rush to the aid of people who have fallen and can't get up.' Quite.

Balado, near Kinross, Scotland
www.tinthepark.com

best music sites

where can I...

BUY CDS ONLINE?

www.cdnow.com

Quick, reasonably cheap, easily searchable and accompanied by Rolling Stone reviews. Check it out.

www.cduniverse.com

Lets you try before you buy, and is generally best for price. Has a new Classical search engine.

www.audiostreet.com

Here's an online supplier that's UK-based, and there's no extra charge for postage. One of the most usable sites around – and the prices are competitive.

www.virginmega.com

Good category guide covering it all from New Age to Cajun. Become a Virgin VIP to really reap its benefits

FIND A BAND SITE?

www.ubl.com

Make this the first stop on your quest. You'll find a nice line in strange merchandise as well as a huge search engine.

www.bigmouth.co.uk

UK-specific site with 100s of band links, tour updates and releases.

www.musicsearch.com

Ostensibly a big search engine but also a good business/service directory for your music needs.

www.fuzzlogic.com/argus

Finds sites, CDs, newsgroups, mailing lists, lyrics and guitar tabs for any band or artist.

LISTEN TO THE RADIO?

www.sonicnet.com

Offers an impressive five audio channels, with simultaneous music videos and the odd exclusive chat.

www.virgin.net/radio/

Listen to the most popular British stations (Kiss, Capital, Virgin) and the best from the rest of the world.

www.netradio.net

More than 120 free radio channels in an easy-to-navigate format. If it's not here, it's not anywhere.

www.broadcast.com/radio

Pick up the World Service in English or Spanish, or search hundreds of top US shows.

www.rollingstone.com – tune in to the authoritative voice from across the pond

www.netradio.net – music radio for all

VIEW THE LATEST NEWS AND REVIEWS?

www.rollingstone.com

The US publication, not the band of British rock dinosaurs. Well written, with live chats and reliable reviews. Essential stuff for music people.

www.igb.com

Swing, beat, R&B and rap site with news, opinions and plenty of new sounds to listen to.

www.wallofsound.com

All the news you can shake a stick at, with some reviews and charts thrown in.

www.billboard.com

Official US charts, features and classifieds site for the serious expert.

FIND GIG LISTINGS?

www.nme.com

Indie, dance and rock listings from across the UK, with all the attitude of the weekly music mag.

www.tourdates.com

Search for tours around the world, and buy and sell tickets online with other fans.

Know your NME... news, reviews, gigs, charts, the works – it's all at www.nme.com

www.liveconcerts.com

Fantastic database of live Internet broadcasts and studio sessions from popular artists.

www.cosmo.com/tours.html

Amateur fan site dedicated to tours, road crews and artist biographies.

BUY TICKETS FOR GIGS?

www.ticketmaster.co.uk

Tickets for any live gig, as well as theatre, classical concerts and more from the UK's biggest agency.

www.aloud.com

New and snazzy site offering plenty of festival tickets and a nationwide gig guide

www.lastminute.com

The title says it all – excellent bargains on last-minute tickets

www.wallofsound.com – music news

www.thetticket.co.uk

Easy-to-use guide to anything happening in and around London. Claims to match anybody's prices.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

alt.music

Plenty of more specialised groups – unearth all sorts of fascinating details of obscure songs.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

Online chart, decided by email votes. Send your current top 15 tracks to ***hits@softdisk.com***.

GET CHATTING?

Rolling Stone hosts regular chats and bulletin boards on all aspects of music at ***yourturn.rollingstone.com***.

Looking for band sites or record companies? Turn to 'Need to know' on page 116

STAR WARS

Enter the fan site menace

The countdown hits zero on 16 July but 'til then there's shed loads happening on the small screen

The critical backlash gets into full swing

ECHO STATION

www.echostation.com ★★★★

Fancy an 'on the couch' with Han Solo? Here's where to go. This Web magazine concentrates on more in-depth issues, such as psychoanalysis of main the characters, plus there are chats with *Star Wars* authors and one with prequel producer, Rick McCallum. You can also find an associated mailing list, interactive crossword puzzles to test your knowledge of *Star Wars* trivia, plus links to spoof film clips such as *Troops* and *Trooper Clerks*. (For a great fly-on-the-wall of *Clerks*, see ***www.studiocreations.com/trooperclerks/***)

The trashcan's smelling again

LUCAS ARTS

www.lucasarts.com ★★★

Itching to get involved in some gratuitous, rapid-fire air-combat? Then this is the place to download George's playable game demos. Lucas has been almost as successful with spin-off computer games as he has with *Star Wars* films. There are 11 so far, including a couple in production, and most have become classics. Current favourite *Rogue Squadron* is a dead cert for cult status. Go to it.

OFFICIAL SITE

www.starwars.com ★★★

If you see it here, it's true. The official site was always going to be a disappointment compared to the hugely detailed fan Web sites, and this lives down to expectation. Good to look at but lacking in depth; descriptions of *Star Wars* characters and events are vague to avoid spoiling surprises for those who haven't seen the movies. But it is the 'official' source of new information, images and footage so you can trust everything you see on it, which is more than you can say for some of those rumour-mongering fan sites. There's a shop for *Star Wars* memorabilia but, sadly, only North Americans need apply.

Feel the force

theforce.net ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

We know it's a cliché, but if you only visit a single *Star Wars* fan site, make it this one. There's daily updated news, of course, but bags more: a shot-by-shot analysis of each of the trailers, identification of vehicles seen or heard in the movie, a list of false rumours (so that you can laugh at your friends for believing them), a timeline laying out what happens in the *Star Wars* comic books, novels and films. And if you haven't seen it yet, this is where to find the movie *Troops*, a no-budget Internet-only cult classic featuring Imperial stormtroopers acting just like the dimwitted policemen on one of those American real-life cop shows.

When cornered, go straight for the kitchen strip lights

DIARY **14 July – UK premiere for The Phantom Menace, Odeon, Leicester Square. General release 16th July**

uk.imdb.com

STARKILLER

www.starwarz.com/starkiller/

★★★★

Reassuring to know that even George Lucas has known rejection in is time. You can read the scripts to all the *Star Wars* films here, view earlier versions, including Lucas' original proposal, and check out the "no thank-you" letters he got from United Artists and Universal all those years ago. The forthcoming illustrated storyboards will make this a must-see site.

STAR WARS DATABASE

www.swdatabase.com ★★★★

Bet you didn't realise there are no fewer than 11 variants of the X-Wing fighter. Well, you do now, and you can arm yourself with a raft of other trivia here. Despite the turgid overtones of its name, the database is compelling stuff – there's an encyclopaedia, stories written by enthusiasts, autographs and more. If you aren't familiar with all the films and the latest gossip, some of the news items can be hard to follow, but hang on in there, you'll soon feel one of the gang.

T-BONE FENDER'S STAR WARS UNIVERSE

www.starwarz.com/index.htm

★★★★

Ever wondered who or what ended up on the cutting room floor (Koo Stark for one in the original film)? The most interesting feature here is the archive full of deleted footage, and alternative takes. There's also a lively discussion forum and interviews with *Star Wars* people, including Tony Dyson, the man who created R2D2.

MAN IN THE PLASTIC MASK

THE DARTH SIDE

If there was a Most Instantly Recognisable Unrecognisable Man in the Universe award, Dave Prowse would win it. The British ex-bodybuilder was the body of Darth Vader. Now he has has his own Web site at *www.daveprowse.com*, where you can find out all about the man behind the mask, including the 11 other films he's worked on (among them *A Clockwork Orange*). If your *Star Wars* curiosity is still not sated, Mark 'Skywalker' Hammill has a fan site at *www.markhamill.com*.

"Comedy, of course I know the secret of good comedy"

best movie sites

where can I...

The MFI sale starts on Friday

GET LATEST NEWS AND RELEASE DATES?

www.popcorn.co.uk

Gives a British perspective on latest releases and gossip, plus full listings for local cinemas.

www.corona.bc.ca/films/filmlistings.html

A complicated, vast site which gives the inside track on forthcoming films. Impressively accurate.

www.filmunlimited.co.uk

Features, reviews and multimedia interviews from *The Guardian* and *Observer*. It all looks as good as you might expect.

www.moviesalvage.com

'The syringe that sticks in the vein of upcoming movies,' boasts the blurb. Sounds painful but it is a fairly accurate description.

SEARCH FOR OBSCURE FILMS?

www.script-o-rama.com

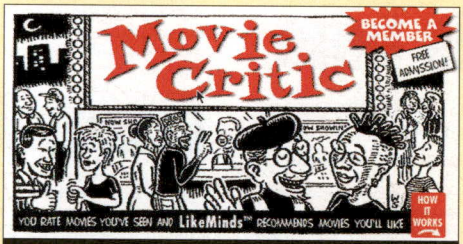
Read rejected scripts for well-known films or transcripts of the more obscure ones.

www.ohthe humanity.com

The worst movies of all time lovingly detailed. *Teenage Catgirls in Heat*, anyone? Plenty more where they came from.

www.soton.ac.uk/~jwes197/main.htm

A massive database of movie 'bloopers' – that's mistakes, to you and me. Provides some good, clean fun for a couple of hours.



www.moviecritic.com – if you know what you like and want more of the same

DECIDE WHAT TO SEE?

www.empireonline.co.uk

Acerbic wit and damning reviews from the online film magazine.

www.cinemachine.com

Retrieve reviews of your chosen films from an extensive archive.

www.moviecritic.com

Tell it the films you like best and Movie Critic suggests others you might enjoy. Clever.

www.karenza.demon.co.uk/films/index.html

A film buff's archive of thousands of releases, with a particular Jackie Chan bent.

FIND OFFICIAL FILM SITES?

uk.imdb.com

It cannot be stressed highly enough how comprehensive this site is. If it's not here, it's not anywhere.

www.foxmovies.com

Links to sites for every new 20th Century Fox release.

www.movies.warnerbros.com

Umbrella site featuring WB's new films and long-forgotten classics.

www.universalstudios.com/universal_pictures/

All your favourites, including *The Mummy* and *Notting Hill*. Well, they're someone's favourites.

FIND A CINEMA?

www.yell.co.uk/yell/ff/

The Film Finder service will show what's coming to a screen very near you.

cinema.scoot.co.uk

Sort of Yellow Pages for cinemas. Easiest to use of the online guides that we found.

Unlimited: not just a pretty interface

FIND OFFICIAL FILM SITES?

uk.imdb.com

It cannot be stressed highly enough how comprehensive this site is. If it's not here, it's not anywhere.

www.foxmovies.com

Links to sites for every new 20th Century Fox release.

www.movies.warnerbros.com

Umbrella site featuring WB's new films and long-forgotten classics.

www.universalstudios.com/universal_pictures/

All your favourites, including *The Mummy* and *Notting Hill*. Well, they're someone's favourites.

ohthehumanity.com of it all – everything on films so dreadful they're delightful

MOVIE TIMES?

movies.yahoo.com/movies/showtimes/advanced.html

If you know a cinema's name, Yahoo! gets you there in seconds.

www.odeon.co.uk

The only major chain to allow online booking. A stylish and useful site.

BUY OR RENT VIDEOTAPES?

www.reel.com

30 percent savings off suggested US prices on DVDs. *Star Wars* store, secondhand videos and more.

allfilms.com

Exhaustive list of movie recordings, including Laserdisc, DVD and 8mm.

wwwimvs.com

Comprehensive video and music store with good search facility.

www.ccvideo.com

Will find you the latest releases but specialises in harder-to-find titles.

www.blockbuster.com

Reserve films to rent before their release, plus exclusive bargains.

www.blackstar.co.uk

UK's biggest online video store. Regular discounts, DVDs and charts to help you decide on your buy.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

rec.arts.movies

An assortment of hundreds of specialist subjects.

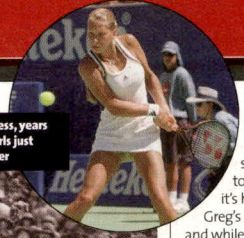
JOIN A MAILING LIST?

Discuss the *Star Wars* prequels in detail by visiting ***NaboOnline.com***

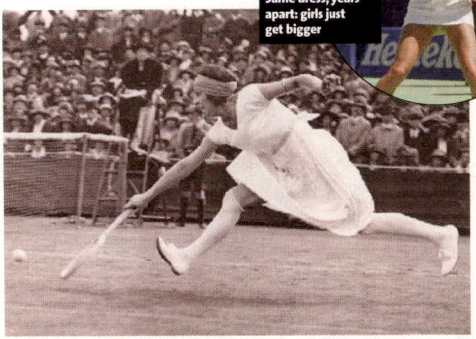
GET CHATTING?

Pretty much anything Hollywood-related is up for discussion on this 24-hour site at ***www.realhollywood.com:4080/home.html***

WORDS: DAVID BRAKE; PICTURES: HULTON GETTY, MOVIE STORE, RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE



Same dress, years apart: girls just get bigger



Close Net call for tennis fans

TENNIS June 21 sees the first day of summer and Wimbledon. Rather slob out with a TV dinner than pick at strawberries? Take your Net-side seat now

ANNA KOURNIKOVA

www.annak.org ★★★★★

Be warned: a good three-quarters of the Anna Kournikova sites on the Internet err on the dodgy side of decent, several of them carrying sordid pictures and even seedier prose. This one, thankfully, is eminently respectable, almost too worthy perhaps at times, with plenty of news and considered features which put the Russian starlet's tennis abilities before her more obvious assets. Even the chat is moderated.

GREG RUSEDSKI

www.british-tennis.freeserve.co.uk/greg/index.html ★★

It's on the Net so it must be true. We know Greg has a God-given right to play for England. But the minute he opens his mouth, some still find his Montreal tones hard on the ears. Well, it's here in black and white: Greg's mom is a Yorkshire lass and while that doesn't exactly make him Fred Trueman or roast beef, it's good enough for a country that hasn't bred a Wimbledon singles champion since Ginny Wade. The site is joined at the hip with Henman's but despite a few flashes of 'GregMagic' here and there, it is very much the poor relation – the boy deserves better.

LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

www.lta.org.uk ★★★★

If your kid is looking every inch the next Bjorn Borg, log on here to see what you should do next. Lots of coaching advice and a nationwide club finder facility make it a good first port of call for all the basic information, and there's a schools section. It turns into a good news source during Wimbledon but all year round it features profiles of our players, along with results, rankings and general tournament news.

MARTINA HINGIS

hingis.org ★★★★

Groupies of the Swiss Miss queue here. See the house she's lived in since she was seven and ogle her palatial new villa near Zurich. Learn the lyrics to tribute songs with lines like 'If you were my lady/I'd call you my angel' and 'I watch the breeze blow through your skirt'. And get chatting to the 1500 or so like-minded fans who just adore the women's ace. We've seen this sort of hero worship before – beware courtside men wielding sharp objects, Miss Hingis.

TENNIS COUNTRY

www.tenniscountry.com ★★★★

All fired up because of Wimbledon but nobody to play with? Then this US site claims it can sort any

DIRTY TRICKS

IT AIN'T TENNIS

Stop that racket

Top tips for tennis cheats, from *www.filep.net/puretennis*

- **When you are serving, be sure to bounce the ball seven or eight times, look up, and then start bouncing it again**
- **Talk to somebody outside the court**
- **Walk really slowly between points.**

Never pick up the closest ball, always the one in the far corner

- **Whenever possible, hit your opponent with the ball**
- **Before the game, point out your opponent to a mate and laugh**
- **Throw yourself on the ground with the worst cramp of your life**
- **Just before your opponent serves, shout 'Not Ready.'**

recommended sports sites

where can I...

LEARN THE LATEST SCORES?

espn.go.com
Fast, accurate scores from every sport, plus news with an American bias.
www.eurosport.com
As comprehensive and useable as the satellite channel of the same name.
www.soccernet.com
Score flashes from all UK games, plus newswire.
www.sportsweb.com
Reuters' newsfeed and plenty of links. Good for off-beat stories.

FIND A CLUB OR PLAYER SITE?

www.sportsearch.com
US-based directory.
www.sportfind.com
A sort of Excite for sport, with directories for every need.

Suits you sir – if the cup fits

www.ukfootballpages.com
Every soccer site, listed and reviewed.
sports.yahoo.com
Obvious – but top for sport searches.

FIND FIXTURES?

www.sportcal.co.uk/public/online.htm
Links to events and sponsors for five years in all sports.
www.athlete.com
Worldwide events.
www.sportlive.net
Join the *Express* site for your own email sports diary.

WATCH EVENTS LIVE?

www.planetfootball.com
Hub site for English football clubs' Real Audio broadcasts. Most top sides are signed up.
www.lsmsports.com/fight.htm
The world's biggest boxing bouts online. Packs a punch.

Fancy a flutter? www.inter-bet – one of the oldest and most popular online bookies

www.broadcast.com/sports/soccer
From Derby County to the Jamaican national side in glorious Real Audio.
www.uk-cricket.org
Links to Jagged Interworks, which covers big matches for Cricinfo.

FIND TOP SOCCER SITES?

www.football365.com
Online daily football paper which seems to get better by the week. Often funny, always accurate.
www.footballnews.co.uk
Soccer news and results, plus links, betting advice and statistics on the UK game.
www.teamtalk.com
Net version of the premium rate phone lines. Stats and up-to-date news about most English sides.

DIARY June 21 Start of Wimbledon fortnight July 3 Women's Final July 4 Men's Final on Centre Court July 10 Football

www.wimbledon.org

Mini-size sampler – full-size edition on sale at your newsagents now

Centre Court, the 1999 men's final... probably not

The Official Wimbledon site

www.wimbledon.org ★★★★★

Whether SW19 is at the other end of the world or the District Line from you, you can be there with this site – virtually. Precisely 263,837 live images were served up from this site in 1998 and it'll be another high-tech affair this time (it's backed by IBM). With web-cams, live scoreboards, Real Audio and interviews, you won't miss a trick. Buy a souvenir bag from the online shop to make it look like you went.

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

www.totw.org
Well-organised links page to help you find a team in any country.

PLACE AN ONLINE BET?

www.sporting-life.com
Advice, links, news and scores service from the gamblers' bible.
www.williamhill.co.uk
Get British bookies' odds and place bets online. Reliable and popular.
www.sportingindex.com
Home of spread betting on the Net.

www.footballnews.co.uk

www.inter-bet.com
One of the oldest, most popular Net bookies. Easy to use and competitive.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

rec.sport.soccer
Truly international newsgroup. Great for general sounding off.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

If you're a fan of a Premiership team, or want to discuss the Premiership, try ***www.isfa.com/isfa/lists/premier/***.

GET CHATTING?

www.footballunlimited.co.uk, run by the *Guardian*, includes a wide-ranging moderated chat room. You have to register.

Looking for football clubs and more sports sites? Turn to Need To Know on page 116

Norman No-mates out with a partner of similar ability – wherever they are in the world. There's a great online community spirit engendered throughout this site, especially evident in the tips section where fellow players pass on advice on how to deliver net-skimming forehands and killer half volleys. And if you need advice on health and fitness, it's all here – check out what a regime of tricep dips could do for you. The store stocks clothing and equipment at fair prices.

TENNIS ORG UK

www.tennis.org.uk ★★

From finding a supplier of synthetic playing surfaces for tropical climes to stringing your racquet, this search engine dedicated to all things tennis-related should, via one link or another, find what you're looking for. The Clubhouse fields questions from around the world to whoever can answer them and there are plenty of links to associated chats and newsgroups. There is also the usual news, results and rankings.

That old table cloth in the trousers stunt again

TIM HENMAN WORLD

users.aol.com/~henmagic/ ★★

Revealing things, Web sites. What do you make of a man whose favourite films are *The Fugitive* and *The Shawshank Redemption* and whose favourite hit is *I don't like Mondays*. Interesting. Let's hope our Tim feels less troubled and persecuted than their central characters when he's facing the opposition. Henmagic fans won't be bothered by such psychoanalysis, though. Chuck them a few facts about Timmy from Chiswick (they don't have to be fascinating ones), and they'll be quite happy. And this does just that.

– Women's World Cup Final, Los Angeles, USA

www.wwc99.com

'course, nobody in the motor trade is like this

Wired wheels

BUYING ONLINE Trawl greasy showrooms, or pick a new car from the comfort of your home? Tough choice

AUTOBYTEL

www.autobytel.co.uk ★★★★★

Americans invented the Internet, so no surprise that they have one of the best car-buying Web sites. From the clever, simple navigation to the easy-to-read specs lists and post-code locator, this site stands out from the herd. *Top Gear* (for road tests) and *Auto City* (for news and views) are also under its sheets. Faults? It has fewer used cars for sale than other top sites, doesn't have the very latest road tests, and sometimes you have to use – gasp – the browser Back button.

AUTO TRADER

www.autotrader.co.uk ★★★★

The car sales giant has some 150,000 vehicles listed, which you can access via either a basic or advanced search. Go for the latter, and there's currently a rather loudly promoted free mobile phone offer (suggested that not too many people are registering?). Unless you're seriously looking for a car, the registration form is just intrusive enough to send you elsewhere. Search results are 'closest' followed by 'next closest', wrongly assuming that if we didn't want a Z3, we'd love a BMW 318i.

CARDEAL UK

www.cardeal.co.uk ★★★

CarDeal claims to offer new cars to private buyers at fleet prices. The service costs £25 (refundable if your car's not found) and aims to return a quote via email within two working days. Reassuringly, you're allocated a named personal contact who you can email directly. CarDeal only puts you in contact with the dealer; it doesn't make the purchase itself. So the service's usefulness really depends on how much laziness a pony is worth to you.

VIRTUAL SHOWROOM

www.virtualshowroom.co.uk ★★★

Fast, snappy navigation brings quick results to a used model search, but the number of hits is disappointing. Not surprising when you see that there are only 21,000 cars on the books. It all works well in a straight line (there's no internal navigation to hop around the search process or go back home), but it simply needs more cars.

CARSOURCE

www.carsource.co.uk ★★★

A nicely designed, basic new car database with dealers' used cars sourced through one standard, menu-driven search engine. Another part of the site can be used to locate your nearest dealer. The library section is good for back-up, providing a brief but useful guide to used models, new car road tests, *Glass's Guide* used prices, a photo library and press releases. It also appears as part of the massive and impressive Carlounge (***www.carlounge.com***) empire.

What Car? Online

www.whatcar.co.uk ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

The online version of the UK's best-known buyer's guide is a powerful resource, its main weapons being the huge, searchable database of new car prices and specifications, and its cars for sale section – alongside its own 10,000 motors on offer, there's now a further 160,000 through AdHunter. Add live reports from launches and motor shows, plus a hefty library of road test reports, and you have a site that's hard to beat as a motoring all-rounder.

WORDS: ANDY ROBINSON

DIARY **18-20 June** Goodwood Festival of Speed www.autosport.co.uk | **27 June** French GP from Magny-Cours www.itv-f1.com | **July 3/4** Rnds 13 & 14 of

EXCHANGE & MART

www.exchangeandmart.co.uk

★★★★

Claiming more than 100,000 cars on its database, E&M is among the biggest and best at this business. There are two search methods of differing complexity, the Extended version using telephone prefixes instead of the more ominous 6/7-digit postcodes to localise your search. In addition, there are pictures and road tests – and pretty much everything else – from *Auto Express*, plus online auctions, a used car price guide and the whole gamut of classified links that make the rag itself break at the spine.

NEW CAR NET

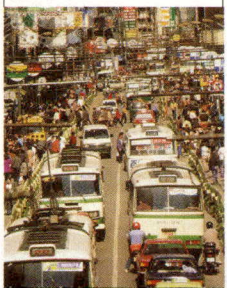
www.new-car-net.co.uk ★★★

Nice new car search, shame about the lack of independent guidance. The easy-to-use search engine asks you to click boxes and menus, with the option to compare details of up to three models on the screen. The design is simple and easy on the eye, and navigation is fast. There are links to manufacturers, as well as providers of insurance, finance and warranties and a collection of other links to 'cool sites' such as, er, Royal & Sun Alliance Car Safety page.

WATCHING WITH MOTHER

WHEEL WATCH

Stop what you're doing, stand up and look out the window. See all the traffic? Beautiful, isn't it? Only problem is, you've got to stand up to watch it. Imagine, then, being able to watch similar quantities of metal without moving an inch from your workstation. Visit *homex.czi.net/jrath/honey/webcam.html* and you'll see an alphabetical list of some 1300 webcams, showing traffic from around the globe. All the fun of a jam, without the associated respiratory problems.



Looks like fun, without the 'f', 'u' or 'n'

BTCC, Croft, N Yorkshire
www.btcc.co.uk

best motoring sites

where can I...

www.autosport.com: fast, furious coverage of national and international series

BUY A CAR IN EUROPE?

home.clara.net/csjh

Go here first. Invaluable free advice and info on DIY Euro importing. Contact numbers, FAQs, discount ferry deals, the lot.

www.carseekers.co.uk

They 'serve as your agent from beginning to end of the purchase, delivery and regulatory process'. It costs £650 if you don't lift a finger, £300 if you collect it yourself.

www.car-prices.com

Complex site selling a DIY importing guide, complete with dealer lists, contact numbers, advice and prices.

www.archimedes.be/en/index.htm

A hand-holding service based in Belgium. Packed with info and advice for potential importers.

READ ROAD TESTS?

www.topgear.beeb.com

Perkily nasal Quentin and Vicki etc offer a library of road tests and up-to-the-minute first drives. Lively site.

www.whatcar.co.uk

Significant first drives go online as soon as the car is launched, sometimes before. Huge road test library.

www.autoexpress.co.uk

Interface looks like a shoot-em-up game and writing is cheesy but feel the width!

reviews.motorweb.ie

How good is a Peugeot 306 for carrying whiskey?

www.webbikes: two wheels, 10 legs

Find out this and much, much more, on this Irish site.

PLAN A JOURNEY?

www.vauxhall.co.uk/trafficnet/

Visit just before you make for the hills, for a visual key to congestion along major UK roads.

www.rac.co.uk/html/services/froute.htm

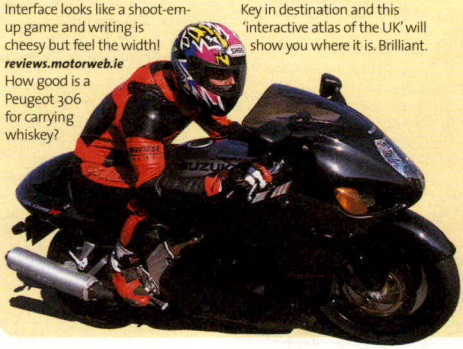
Tell it where you are, where you're going, a preferred route, and this will get you there.

www.theaa.co.uk/ukroads/traf3.asp

If you like men showing lower rear cleavages, the AA will tell you which roads they're digging up.

www.multimap.com

Key in destination and this 'interactive atlas of the UK' will show you where it is. Brilliant.



FOLLOW MOTORSPORT?

www.autosport.com

World's best site for motorsport news, majoring on breadth and speed. Live radio on major events.

www.itv-f1.com

F1 Racing magazine hits the Web in a clean format that looks a little like its sister site (above).

www.bmrc.co.uk

A treasure trove of UK motorsport info, with maps, diagrams, events diaries and links. Addictive.

www.btcc.co.uk

More information than you strictly need on the British Touring Car Championship and its luminaries.

BUY BREAKDOWN COVER?

www.theaa.co.uk

Join the world-famous AA online, or peruse one of its many and varied services.

www.rac.co.uk

There's plenty of advice and travel news here – apparently, movement drives them.

www.greenflag.co.uk

They're not just the (former) sponsors of the England football team – they also sell insurance.

www.carquote.co.uk

Provides quotes from every major insurance company on receipt of a form.

LEARN ABOUT BIKES?

www.motorcycle.com

'The world's largest and most read digital motorcycle magazine.' Shows the hairies how it's really done. We're not going to argue with them.

dspace.dial.pipex.com/mechanics/

Japanese and European oily fingernails on a rough and ready support site for the print mag.

www.webbikes.co.uk

The home of *On Two Wheels*, a Web-based magazine dedicated to UK motorcycle enthusiasts.

FIND A MAILING LIST?

Receive the latest from the makers of Number 6's Seven.

public@caterham.co.uk

JOIN A NEWSGROUP?

Broad-based motoring discussion forum at ***lisZt.bluemarble.net/select/Recreation/Autos/***

GET CHATTING?

Top Gear is one mag with an online chatting arena, *Auto Express* is another. Go to ***www.forums.beeb.com/topgear/*** or else there's ***www.autoexpress.co.uk***

Looking for car manufacturers' sites? Turn to Need To Know on page 116

WORDS: DAVID LEE TAYLOR; PICTURES: IMAGE BANK, RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE, TELEGRAPH COLOUR LIBRARY

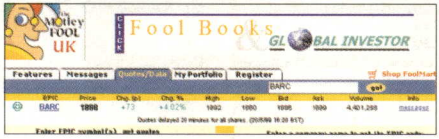
"The Net's for wimps." You carry on thinking that Gordie

The Motley Fool

www.fool.com ★★★★★

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

You know a site is an expert in its field when it uses words you can understand (and not necessarily big ones), plus just the right dose of humour to keep you entertained as well as informed – that's the Motley Fool for you. It gives down-to-earth advice in plain English on everything from personal finance to big-time investment, and offers portfolio tracking, data on fast-moving stocks and shares and more. Like book store amazon.com, it's a Web creation that is changing the face of traditional commerce.



Playing FTSE

STOCKS AND SHARES Get more bang for your bucks by tracking your hard-earned investment on the Net

DAY TRADING STOCKS.COM

www.daytradingstocks.com ★★★

In the US, day trading is currently an exploding phenomenon. Working on the basis of catching subtle swings in the market, creaming tiny amounts off these margins, and cutting out the broker, it's a frantic world of fast decisions and even faster losses or gains. Day Trading Stocks aims to be a helping hand in it all. It's a club that sounds friendly enough ("add a photo of yourself," it asks). Step out of line, however, and it could be a bearpit: "Violators will be terminated...don't pump and dump garbage stocks." You've been warned.

Get online, start trading, deserve horse-whipping

E*TRADE

www.etrade.com ★★★★

Not hard to see why this is an award-winning site. Comprehensive analysis and data, plus plenty of potential for personalisation. Clients can create stock-trackers, customise their desktops so that they display only the particular stocks or firms in which they're interested, and receive stock quotes via any email address or alphanumeric pager. The neat tear-off portfolio, allows you to keep a beady eye on your selected stocks even when you leave the Web site.

FINANCEWISE

www.financewise.com ★★★

A good corner- cutter for the novice investor – FinanceWise aims to be the definitive search engine for money-related sites. Search by keyword, company, industry sector or topic, browse the bookstore, and read analysis and reports from a host of sources. An essential site for anyone who wants to build a comprehensive list of financial bookmarks to set as a homepage – and quickly.

FINANCIAL TIMES

www.ft.com ★★★★★

As integral to the online investor's day as the hard-copy *Pink 'un* is to the analogue financial world. Highlights include the Video Comment section, with pithy streaming video commentary on the day's top finance stories: so you'll always know your EMU from your elbow and will be equipped to spot an Emerging Market Bond a mile off. Like many of the sites here, you have to register for full access, but the sheer wealth of the archived articles – over four million from over 3000 titles – and the constant daily updates make it a worthy resource for any investor.

HEMMINGTON SCOTT

www.hemscott.co.uk ★★★★

Until recently only available to CompuServe subscribers, this site is unusual for its coverage of the UK equities market. Its Refs system is a paid-for service but a wealth of free information is available here, including top share movers on the FTSE 100, FTSE 250 and All Share. The site has negotiated with a number of firms to carry postings of annual reports and has a separate section for investment trusts and new issues. For UK investors, an invaluable resource.

HOOVERS ONLINE

www.hoovers.com ★★★★

No, nothing to do with vacuum cleaners or an allegedly dodgy head of the FBI . Despite its name, this is one of the most venerable and respected financial sites on the Web. Want info on a

HOLLYWOOD STOCKBUSTERS

THE NAME'S BOND, CAPITAL BOND

Would-be millionaires can indulge in a spot of rampant investing without risking the loss of a single penny. The Hollywood Stock Exchange at *www.hsx.com* invites registered users to speculate on movies they think are going to sink or swim at the box office, and talk with others who are playing in the chat rooms. Armed with $2 million in virtual money, players can invest in a variety of bonds and stocks, with the chance of becoming Mogul of the Month and winning real prizes. The idea is so popular that people in over 110 countries are playing.

Costner could have cost yer

DIARY 22-23 June Pricing and Trading Options - a practical dealing course by David Lywood International Ltd
www.lywood-david.co.uk

specific company? Just tap in the name and Hoovers sucks up a snapshot of your chosen firm, including stock performance and background details. For a modest fee, subscribers can get more detailed information on whichever companies they're interested in and, using a set of highly task-specific search engines, compile lists of companies by their industry sector, location, sales or type. Go on, suck it and see.

NASDAQ

www.nasdaq.com ★★★

The world's first electronic stock exchange is professional but, oddly, rather clunky. Nonetheless, a good bookmark if you want to keep an eye out for the next amazon.com since it lists the fast-growth Internet companies. The site has a useful search engine for finding company symbols or the names by which they trade on the market. There's also InfoQuotes, which provides up-to-the-minute prices and links to chart analysis tools, in-depth data and rates. This site is really aimed at the professional, or at least the experienced investor, but novices should quickly grow into it.

SILICON INVESTOR

www.techstocks.com/index.html ★★★

Although primarily a discussion area, Silicon Investor's clear-eyed look at the investment world marks it out as a good 'un. Its excellent Red Chip Review, concentrating on cutting-edge stocks and shares, provides subscribers with news and analysis, plus the opportunity to buy in-depth reports. The site specialises in 'micro-cap', or smaller companies, and tracks a portfolio of some 300 of them. If you fantasise about being in at the start of something really big, this is the place to head for.

After Net profit comes a sore arm

SWIFTRADE

www.swiftrade.com ★★★★

If you've got both the bucks and the bottle to rub braces with real-life lizards like Gordon Gekko, head for Swiftrade. It provides access to the American exchanges, offering 24-hour online registration and electronic trading with fully automated global access and broker support. The site operator charges a commission of $29 per trade, but the speed and level of security provided make it pretty good value. We recommend the online demo which gives you a clear view of transactions.

best financial sites

where can I...

CHECK SHARE PRICES?

www.bloomberg.co.uk

Big brother is the TV channel; vital bookmark for all things financial.

www.iii.co.uk

Monitor your portfolio online and check other aspects of personal finance. Also available at ***msn.co.uk***.

cbs.marketwatch.com

Go to the money channel for a comprehensive guide to stocks, commodities, futures and bonds.

www.quicken.com

Another good all-rounder, with a quick and clear guide to the indexes.

www.quote.com

Top US performer with a solid range of services. Boasts "the Web's most extensive stock research".

www.schwab.com

Investment opportunities, financial news and latest prices from the US.

No need to channel hop on CBS' site

BUY SHARES ONLINE?

www.barclays-stockbrokers.co.uk

The bank offers real-time dealing and plenty of advice.

www.stocktrade.co.uk

Dealing service for UK stocks, with account info and portfolio tracking.

www.forex-cmc.co.uk

The first dealer in foreign exchanges and futures online; it also claims to be the most secure.

www.americanexpress.com/direct

The financial giant now offers a personal online prospectus.

FIND SHARE TRACKERS?

www.nacons ulting.com

Pick up a free stock and investment tracker from this company, and upgrade for expanded features.

www.falkor.com

A comprehensive analysis, chart and stock tracker, available on a 30-day free trial. Features include charting, and personalised watch list.

www.intnetsol.com

Six business calculators to help with amortisation and investment calculations.

bali-pizza.co.il/mashav/

A deluxe stock tracker using the expertise of 23 leading analysts, this neat application lets you track stocks in real time.

SUBSCRIBE TO FINANCIAL NEWSLETTERS & E-ZINES?

the street.com

Well-written articles on stocks and investments, with frequent updates.

www.wilsonreport.com

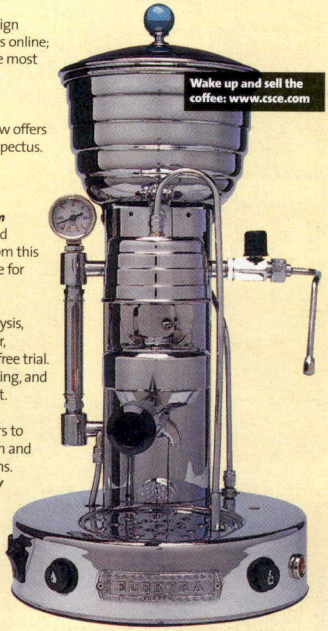
Good new investors' guide, which offers clear instructions on how to trade online.

www.wallstreetcity.com

Large, comprehensive selection of newsletters, with free samples.

www.wsj.com

Advice and resources from the *Wall Street Journal*. It costs to join but is probably worth it.



Wake up and sell the coffee: www.csce.com

FIND OUT ABOUT FUTURES AND COMMODITIES?

www.csce.com

Central hangout for those who want to follow the volatile coffee, cocoa and sugar markets.

www.hkfe.com

Asian economies can change with the weather – stay in the know at the this Hong Kong-based site.

www.liffe.com

One of the first exchanges to take early advantage of electronic trading. A smart, reliable site.

www.futuresmag.com

Where everyone involved in the business gathers to discuss trades, play a virtual stock game and get hot news on the futures markets.

US perspective at www.schwab.com

SORT OUT MY TAX?

www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk

Advice on tax returns, and a useful self-assessment link to help beat those pesky deadlines.

listen.to/taxman

Give it your financial details, and it'll calculate how much tax you owe.

www.uktax.demon.co.uk

Useful links to government and independent tax resources.

www.tax.org.uk

Tax advice from the Chartered Institute of Taxation, split into beginner and expert sections.

JOIN A NEWSGROUP?

misc.Invest.Stocks

Discussion of stocks and IPOs, with a leaning towards technical issues.

FIND A MAILING LIST?

Commentary, warning signs from overnight markets, tips on stocks to watch, earnings and IPO calendars from Zdnet's Interactive Investor channel. Subscribe at ***www.zdii.com/thedayahead.asp***.

GET CHATTING?

Natter with fellow investors and get hot tips at Armchair Millionaire: ***www.armchairmillionaire.com***

Looking for more Money sites? Turn to Need To Know on page 116

FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BRING YOU THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING FORMULA 1 MAGAZINE
14
THE BEST PICTURES
EXCITING COMPETITIONS
UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS
EXCLUSIVE COMMENT FROM ITV'S ON-SCREEN TEAM
FULL TEAM AND DRIVER MERCHANDISE READY TO ORDER
FULL GRAND PRIX WEEKEND REPORTS
WWW.ITV-F1.COM
ferrariart new media
itv SPORT
Level(3)
EIDOS
F1 RACING

School's out – time to log on

CHILD'S PLAY With the summer break just weeks away, here's our pick of the edu-sites that'll keep 'em busy

BBC SCHOOLS ONLINE

www.bbc.co.uk/education/schools

★★★★

Living proof that the Net's interactivity can make for a better learning tool than television. While it pretty much demands Shockwave to get the most from it, the site is otherwise beautifully designed and intuitive to use, with a wealth of Primary, Secondary and even adult educational material. The section for parents and the BBC educational programming pages are excellent. Oh, and you'll enjoy playing the games while they're learning.

BBC Schools online: apple shares plummet

CHANNEL 4 SCHOOLS HOMEPAGE

schools.channel4.com ★★★

The massive online presence of C4 schools makes its educational broadcasting truly interactive. This excellent site splits into four main areas. Interactive learning is pretty high on the agenda, with online quizzes and downloadable free fact sheets based on the programmes. Covering everything from early learning to secondary education, the site even offers shopping for educational material.

EDUWEB

www.eduweb.co.uk

Homework during the break gets a lot easier if your kids have friends to do it with. So EduWeb boasts a great Link Up section, with discussion groups, project centres and a Net Pals area to make friends. Links make light work of finding pages for a particular school, and there's a host of other links recommended by site users.

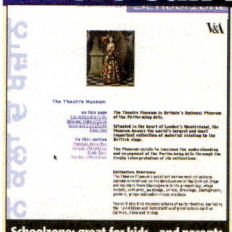
THE SHAKESPEAREAN HOMEWORK HELPER

hometown.aol.com/liadona2/shakespeare.html ★★★

A midsummer's night dream of a site that'll have you reciting the old bard in no time. Required viewing for students and lovers of Britain's national playwright, one of the best features is AsK Your Question, where students can pick the brains of the woman who runs the site.

best education sites

where can I...



Schoolzone: great for kids...and parents

LEARN WITH MY KIDS?

www.schoolzone.co.uk

UK-specific information resource for schools.

http://www.indiana.edu/~eric_rec/fl/ras.html

Amazing resource for both children and parents.

FIND A SPECIFIC SUBJECT?

www.topmarks.co.uk

Searches by subject and age group.

www.a-levels.co.uk

Aimed at A-level students.

GET HELP TEACHING?

www.merseyworld.com/educate/

Useful information for teachers.

www.timeplan.com/vtc/index.htm

Virtual Teaching Centre holds info for teachers on a variety of subjects.

FIND A PLACE TO LEARN?

www.isuk.org.uk

Great directory of over 2400 schools with a search facility.

www.mailbase.ac.uk/juga/

Huge database of universities and colleges for users to search.

LEARN WITHOUT GOING TO SCHOOL?

www-icdl.open.ac.uk

The Open University. Enough said.

www.rmplc.co.ukeduweb/sites/ctrh/home.htm

Gridlink offers help for children who cannot attend school.

www.ngfl.gov.uk

Mass of information on local learning centres and libraries.

LEARN OVERSEAS?

www.eeop.com

Leisure and learning for adults and young people in Europe and the US.

www.ribi.org/yex/

Rotary Youth Exchange offers school year exchange programmes.

FIND A NEWSGROUP?

uk.education.misc

Exploring all manner of issues relating to education in the UK.

JOIN A MAILING LIST?

uk-schools

Email ***mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk*** with 'join uk-schools' plus [Your Name].

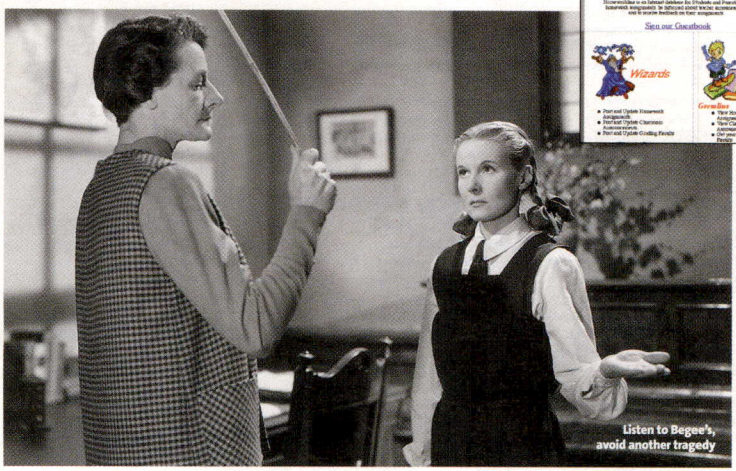
GET CHATTING?

www.scholarstuff.com/chat/chat.htm

A college chat room. Can't promise all the talk will be about education, but that is the general idea.

BJ Pinchbeck's Homework Helper

www.bjpinchbeck.com ★★★★★

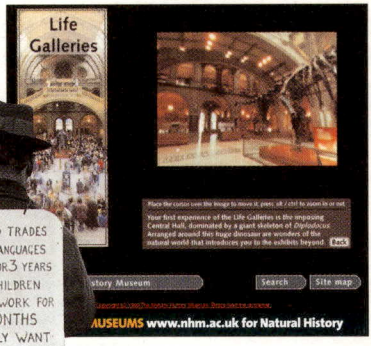


Listen to Begee's, avoid another tragedy

thenet ★★★★★ AWARD

This immense online homework resource gets bigger and better. But perhaps what makes this site really awesome is the brains behind it. Rather than being the product of a group of high-flying, hi-tech teachers, it's the brainchild of a 12-year old by the name of BJ (or Beege). With a 'little help' from his dad, Beege has complied a huge database of reference sites (no less than 550 links as we went to press) that help out with the trickiest of questions, from maths to languages. No surprise, then, that BJ's handiwork has seen over 1.6 million hits since its launch back in 1996. As BJ says, 'If you can't find it here, then you just can't find it'.

WORDS: TIM MCCANN; PICTURES: KOBAL



Everything you'll

From mortgage advice to buying your groceries online; from a holiday in the sun to a

BANKING AND FINANCE

ONLINE BANKS

Abbey National ***www.abbeynational.co.uk***
Barclays ***www.barclays.co.uk***
Capital Bank plc ***www.capitalbank.co.uk***
Co-operative Bank ***www.co-operativebank.co.uk***
First Direct ***www.firstdirect.co.uk***
Halifax ***www.halifax.co.uk/fr_home.html***
Hamilton Direct Bank ***www.hdb.co.uk***
HSBC Midland Bank plc ***www.banking.hsbc.co.uk***
Lloyds Bank ***www.lloydsbank.co.uk***
Nationwide Building Society ***www.nationwide.co.uk***
NatWest ***www.natwest.co.uk***
Staffordshire Building Society ***www.staffordshirebuildingsociety.co.uk***
TSB ***www.tsb.co.uk***

STOCK EXCHANGES

American ***www.amex.com***
Australian ***www.asx.com.au***
The Baltic Exchange ***www.balticexchange.co.uk***
Brussels ***www.stockexchange.be***
Cayman ***www.csx.com.ky***
Irish ***www.ise.ie***
London ***www.londonstockex.co.uk***
Hong Hong ***www.sehk.com.hk***
Montreal ***www.me.org***
New York ***www.nyse.com***
Stockholm ***www.xsse.se***
Swiss ***www.swx.ch***
Tokyo ***www.tse.or.jp/eindex.html***
Vancouver ***www.vse.ca***

CLASSIFIEDS

AdHunter ***www.adhunter.co.uk***
Admatic ***www.admatic.co.uk***
American Internet Classifieds ***www.bestads.com***
Economist Classifieds Market Place ***www.classified.economist.com***
E-Mart ***www.e-mart.co.uk***
Eureka-net ***www.eureka-net.co.uk***
Free Classified ***www.freeclassified.co.uk***
InternetWeb ***www.internetweb.co.uk***
JJ Electronic Plaza Classifieds ***www.jjplaza.com/onlinead***
London's Classifieds ***www.classifieds-free.net***
LOOT ***www.lootlink.com***
netTRADER ***www.nettrader.co.uk***
PhotoAds ***www.photoad.co.uk***
Photographic Ads ***www.nitehawk.com/iga/ads.html***

DOWNLOADS

Apple ***asu.info.apple.com***
DaveCentral ***www.davecentral.com***
Download Net ***www.download.net***
Download Warehouse ***www.downloadwarehouse.com***
Freeware ***www.freewarehome.com***
ICQ ***www.icq.com***
Microsoft ***www.microsoft.comdownloads***
MP3 ***www.mp3.com***
Real Player ***www.real.com***
Shareware ***www.download.com***
ZDNet ***www.hotfiles.com***

ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Encyclopedia Britannica ***www.eb.com***
Encyclopedia Mythica ***www.pantheon.org/mythica***
Encyclopedia of Law & Economics ***encyclo.findlaw.com***
Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia ***gme.grolier.com/free.html***
Hutchinson Encyclopedia ***www.bt-ern.co.uk/helicon***
International Financial Encyclopedia ***www.euro.net/innovation/Finance_Base/Fin_encyc.htm***

FAVOURITES

AfriCam ***www.africam.com***
The Dolls' House ***www.bravo.co.uk/dolls***
FridgeCam ***www.electrolux.co.uk/show.asp?id=168***
Ultimate Taxi ***www.ultimatetaxi.com***

FOOD AND DRINK

DIRECTORIES

Cooking Index ***www.cookingindex.com***
Cooking Light ***www.cookinglight.com***
Food Channel ***www.foodchannel.com***
KitchenLink ***www.kitchenlink.com***
Meals.com ***www.meals.com***
Restaurants.co.uk ***www.restaurants.co.uk***

GAMES

GUIDES AND COMPANIES

Game Daily ***www.gamedaily.com***
Future Games Network ***www.fgnetwork.com***
GameCenter ***www.gamecenter.com***
Game Daily ***www.gamdaily.com***
GameSpot ***www.gamespot.com***
GameSpyder ***www.gamespyder.com***
GameStats ***www.gamestats.com***
GA Source ***www.ga-source.com***
MultiPlayer ***www.multiplayer.com***
Nintendo ***www.nintendo.com***
Playstation ***www.playstation.com***
Sega ***www.sega-europe.com***
Total Video Games ***www.totalvideogames.com***
Zone ***www.zone.com***

GENEALOGY

British Ancestral Research ***www.brit-a-r.demon.co.uk***
British Heraldic Institute ***www.kwtelecom.com/heraldry***
Coats of Arms Designs of Wonder ***www.onlinepub.net/arms/arms.html***
Genealogy and Family History Research ***www.kindredkonnections.com***
Genealogy for All ***www.excaliburknights.com/genealogy/***
Genealogy Research Source ***www.genealogy.bookpub.net***
Royal & Noble Genealogical Data ***www.dcs.hull.ac.uk/public/genealogy/GEDCOM.html***

GOVERNMENT

BRITAIN

10 Downing Street

Mini-size sampler – full-size edition on sale at your newsagents now

Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me

HUMOUR A right old carry-on at the Comedy Web directory

want on the web

webcam of a fridge – somebody, somewhere on the Net will be able to find what you want

www.number-10.gov.uk/index.html
Action 2000
www.open.gov.uk/bug2000/index.html
Arts Council ***www.artscouncil.org.uk***
Department for Culture, Media and Sport ***www.culture.gov.uk***
Department for International Development ***www.dfid.gov.uk***
Department of Health
www.doh.gov.uk
Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions
www.detr.gov.uk
MAFF – Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food ***www.maff.gov.uk***
Ministry of Defence ***www.mod.uk***
Scottish Parliament
www.scotland.gov.uk
Welsh Assembly ***www.wales.gov.uk***

THE WORLD

Australia ***www.fed.gov.au***
China ***www.gov.cn***
European Commission
europa.eu.int
France ***www.premierministre.gouv.fr***
Germany ***www.bundesregierung.de***
Russia ***www.gov.ru***
United Nations ***www.un.org***
United States ***www.whitehouse.gov***

HEALTH

DIETING

Better Health
www.betterhealth.com
British Heart Foundation
www. bhf.org.uk
Calorie Control
www.caloriecontrol.org
Cyberdiet ***www.cyberdiet.com***
Weight Watchers UK
uk.weightwatchers.com

DOCTORS AND DIAGNOSIS

Ask Dr Weil
cgi.pathfinder.com/drweil/
Ask The Doc
www.ask-the-doc.com
Better Health
www.betterhealth.com/experts
General Dental Council
www.gdc-uk.org.
MedRef ***www.medref.com***
Mental Health
www.mentalhealth.com
Osteopathic Information Service
www.osteopathy.org.uk

HOMES

ESTATE AGENTS

Bushells ***www.bushells.com***
CityLet ***www.citylet.com***
Cluttons Daniel Smith
www.cluttons.com
Egerton ***www.egertonproperty.co.uk***
Friend & Falcke
www.friendandfalcke.co.uk
General Accident
www.gaproperty.co.uk
Goldschmidt Howland
www.goldschmidt-howland.co.uk
Hamptons ***www.hamptons.co.uk***
John D Wood
www.johndwood.co.uk
Knight Frank
www.knightfrank.co.uk
Strutt & Parker
www.struttandparker.co.uk
Winkworth ***www.winkworth.co.uk***

PROPERTY FINDERS

HomeLet Online ***www.homelet.co.uk***
Homepages ***www.homepages.co.uk***
Home to Home
www.home-to-home.co.uk
HouseNet ***www.housenet.co.uk***
Internet Property Finder
www.propertyfinder.co.uk
Property Fast
www.propertyfast.com
Property Sight
www.property-sight.co.uk
UK Property Gold ***www.ukpg.co.uk***

HUMOUR

Cyber Comedian
webtamers.com/comedian.html
Funny ***www.funny.co.uk***
HumourNet ***Humourlinks.net***
JokePost ***www.jokepost.com***
Pretty Strange
www.prettystrange.com
The Simpsons
www.foxworld.com/simpsons
South Park
www.comedycentral.com
Useless Pages
www.go2net.com/internet/useless

JOBS

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

Brook Street ***www.brookstreet.co.uk***
Independent Appointments
www.indappts.co.uk
Manpower ***www.manpower.co.uk***
The Media Network ***www.tmn.co.uk***
Reed ***www.reed.co.uk***

JOB SEARCHES

Expat Network
www.expatnetwork.com
Golden Square
www.goldensquare.co.uk
Gradunet ***www.gradunet.co.uk***
Jobsearch UK ***www.jobsearch.co.uk***
Jobsite ***www.jobsite.co.uk***
MonsterBoard
www.monster.co.uk
Overseas Jobs
www.overseasjobs.com
Personnelnet
www.personnelnet.com
WorkWeb
www.workweb.co.uk/index.html

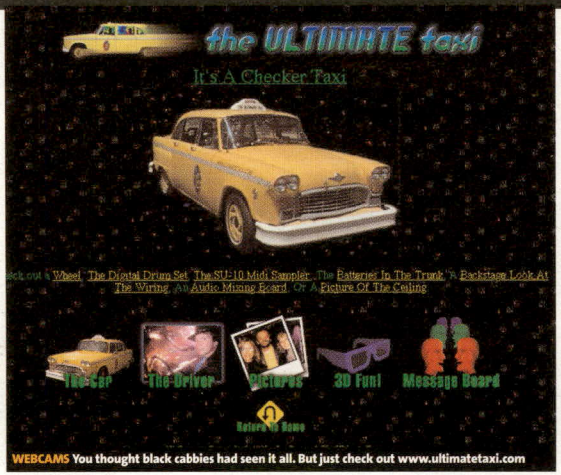
KIDS

0-8

Bedtime stories
www.home-office-mall.com/bedtime-story
FunSchool
www.funschool.com/preschool
Kidscom
www.kidscom.com/orakc/Mousers/mouse.html
Nickelodeon
www.nickjr.com
Sesame Street
www.sesamestreet.com/preschool

8 PLUS

AJ Kids ***www.ajkids.com***
Club-Z ***www.club-z.com***
Cartoon Network
www.cazrtoonnetwork.com
Family Education
www.familyeducation.com
Kaleidoscopes
www.kaleidoscopes.com
Yahooligans ***www.yahooligans.com***



MAGAZINES
ONLINE MAGS
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Polydor ***www.polydor.co.uk***
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Virgin ***www.virgin.com***
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Cardigans ***cardigans.net***
Catatonia ***www.catatonia.com***
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Lightning Seeds ***www.lightningseeds.com/***
Manic Street Preachers ***www.manics.co.uk***
Mansun ***www.mansun.co.uk***
Massive Attack ***www.massiveattack.co.uk***
Oasis ***www.oasisinet.com***
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Placebo ***www.placebo.co.uk***
Radiohead ***www.radiohead.co.uk***
REM ***www.wbr.com/rem/***
Tricky ***www.polygram.com/polygram/mondo/tricky/tricky.html***
Robbie Williams ***www.robbiewilliams.co.uk***

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES
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Eureka Children's Museum ***ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Eureka_museum/***
Hayward Gallery ***www.Hayward-gallery.org.uk***
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London Transport Museum ***www.ltmuseum.co.uk***
National Gallery ***www.nationalgallery.org.uk***
Natural History Museum ***www.nhm.ac.uk***
National Maritime Museum ***www.nmm.ac.uk***
National Museum of Science and Industry ***www.nmsi.ac.uk***
Royal Academy of Arts ***www.royalacademy.org.uk***
Tate Gallery ***www.tate.org.uk***

NEWSPAPERS
Daily Record ***www.record-mail.co.uk***
Financial Times ***www.ft.com***
Guardian ***www.guardian.co.uk***
Independent ***www.independent.co.uk***
Daily Mirror ***www.mirror.co.uk***
Daily Star ***www.megastar.co.uk***
The Sun ***www.currantbun.com***
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EmailFinder ***www.emailfinder.com***
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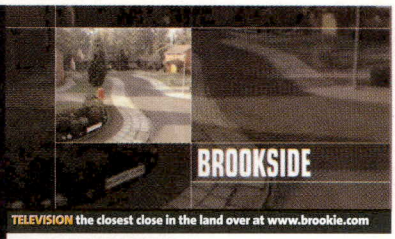

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Tottenham Hotspur ***www.spurs.co.uk***
West Ham Utd ***www.whufc.co.uk***
Wimbledon
www.wimbledon-fc.co.uk

SPORT A-Z

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www.martial-arts-network.com
Racing ***www.sporting-life.co.uk***
Rugby League ***www.leaguex.co.uk***
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dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/terrace/gj137/index.shtml
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www.diabetic.org.uk
HIV/AIDS Information & Links
www.brad.ac.uk/staff/ijhodgson/hivlinks.htm
National Autistic Society
www.oneworld.org/autism_uk
National Meningitis Trust
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India ***www.indiagov.org***
Italy ***www.travel.it***
Japan ***www.jnto.go.jp***
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Scotrail ***www.scotrail.co.uk***
Virgin Trains ***www.virgintrains.co.uk***

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Trailfinders ***www.trailfinder.com***

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LookSmart ***www.looksmart.com***
MiningCo ***www.miningco.com***
UK Plus ***www.ukplus.co.uk***
WebCrawler ***www.webcrawler.com***
Yahoo! ***www.yahoo.com***
Yell ***www.yell.co.uk***

stepbystep

Email

Follow our simple steps for easy email and send someone a message today

What is email?

Email is a way of sending messages around the Internet. While early programs could only handle plain text, most can now carry pictures, and even video clips and sound.

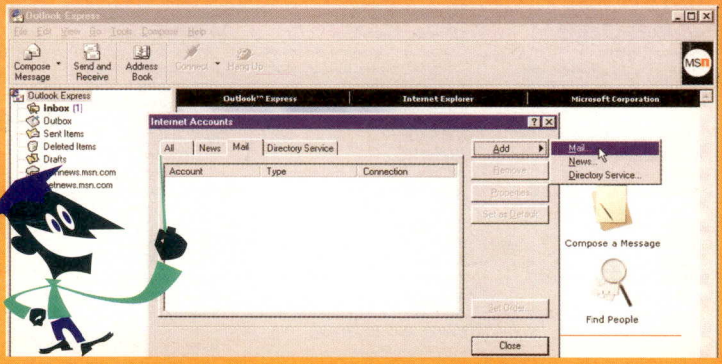
So why should I use it?

➤ It's a lot cheaper to email a friend than to phone them long distance.
➤ It's delivered almost instantly – there's no seven-day wait if you're emailing someone on the other side of the globe.
➤ You can keep in touch with family and friends, even while they're away on business or holidays – they can visit a cybercafé and check their mail from there.
➤ Many companies now rely on email as a means of communication because it's much faster and cheaper than ordinary or 'snail mail'.
➤ You can have information on your favourite subjects – whether it's fishing, the stock market, or a TV programme – delivered to your mailbox every day.

Okay, so how do I use it?

There are lots of email packages, but the one most widely used is Microsoft's Outlook Express. If you've bought a PC in the last two or three years, or you've downloaded Microsoft Internet Explorer for either Mac or PC, you'll already have Outlook Express installed. Our step-by-step guide shows you how to configure the program, create an email message, send it, and then read through the mail you've been sent.

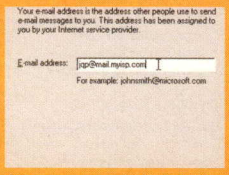
1 Getting started with Outlook Express



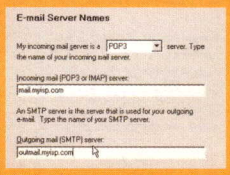
1 From the Start menu on your desktop, click Programs and then Outlook Express. If you are asked where you want it to store messages, select the pre-set or 'default' folder. The folder is kept in the Program Files folder on your hard drive.

2 Once Outlook Express has loaded go to the Accounts box from the Tools menu, and click the Mail tab shown in the picture on the left. This will show you any mail accounts you already have set up, and allows you to create a new one. For the purposes of this exercise we are going to create a new email account. Next, click Add, and select Mail.

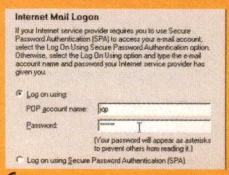
3 The Internet Connection Wizard will now guide you through the steps you need to take. First, enter your full name.



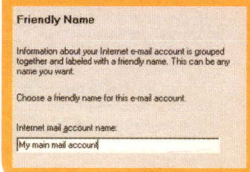
4 Type in your email address. This will have been given to you by your Internet service provider or ISP.



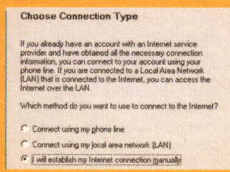
5 Enter the names of the email POP3/IMAP server in order to get incoming and outgoing mail. Call your ISP's helpline if you're unsure.



6 Type in your email address – just the part before the '@' sign – and your password. Again, your ISP should have given you these details.



7 Outlook Express asks for a 'friendly name' to give to your email account. We've called ours 'My main email account' for simplicity.



8 Outlook Express can automatically dial into your ISP for you, but it's probably best to connect manually. You can use Outlook offline, writing and managing your mail and then connect in order to send and receive messages. Choose the 'I will establish my Internet connection manually' option.

MORE EMAIL HELP AND ADVICE @ www.thenet.co.uk/helpbutton/

- ★ Creating an email address book
- ★ Email etiquette
- ★ Filtering your email messages
- ★ Sending pictures and files via email

BEGINNER'S TIP

Add a 'signature' to your messages. A signature is like a calling card appended to the bottom of your email message. It might contain your email address, full name and phone number. To make one, go to the Tools menu in Outlook Express, choose Options and select Stationery and click on the Signature button. Type in the signature text you want to appear at the bottom of each message.

INTERMEDIATE TIP

Often, you'll want to pass a file to someone as part of your email message. This is known as 'attaching' the file, and is supported by most email packages. Remember that a large file will take longer to send. Compressing it using a shareware package like WinZip on the PC will shrink it, but the receiver the file will need a copy of the same program to re-expand it – so check before you send.

ADVANCED TIP

You can set up several different email accounts. Outlook Express will check each one for new mail when you go online. This is useful if you have separate work and personal email accounts. To add extra accounts, go to the Tools menu, select Options and click on New Account. Go through the 'Getting Started' steps again below, entering the new settings.

EMAIL OPTIONS If you don't want to use Outlook Express, try these alternatives for size

EUDORA LIGHT

www.eudora.com

A very popular, free email package. Includes lots of great features. Doesn't support reading news-groups, but copes happily with 'rich content email' – mail that includes sound, images and so on.

✔ **Lots of features**

✘ **None**

HOTMAIL

www.hotmail.com

A Web-based email program. Gives you a free email address, and can be accessed from any computer with a Web browser. Can also check email from a non-Web-based account.

✔ **Accessed from any computer**

✘ **You need to be online to read or compose mail**

EUDORA PRO 4.0

www.eudora.com

Commercial bigger brother to Eudora Light. Has all the features of Lite, but also allows you to check your mail from several different accounts easily.

✔ **Supports multiple mailboxes, spellchacker, email filtering**

✘ **It'll set you back nearly £30**

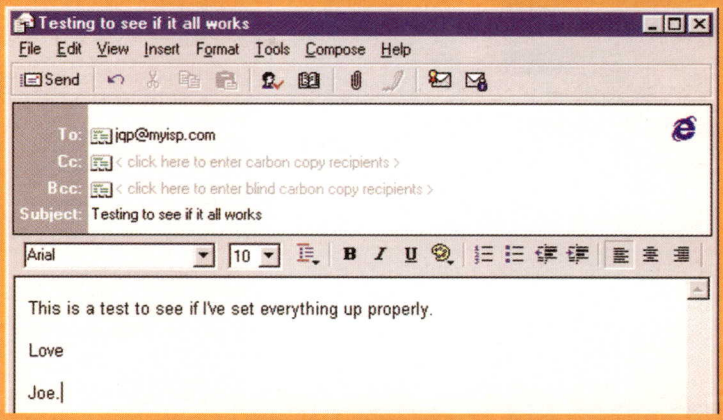
OUTLOOK 98

www.microsoft.com Commercial bigger brother to Outlook Express. Includes an address book, to-do list and calendar, all of which link very elegantly in to the email section of the program.

✔ **Integrates well with address book, diary and scheduler**

✘ **It'll set you back around £125**

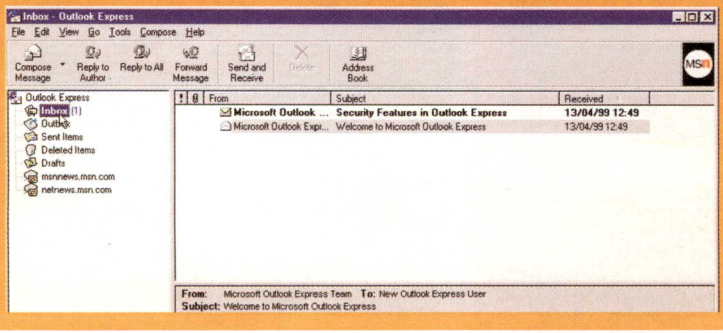
2 Composing your first email message



COMPOSING A MESSAGE

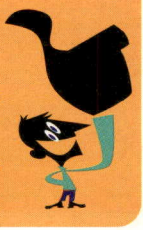
To create a message, click 'Compose Message'. If you click the small arrow just to the right, you will see that there are several pre-defined graphic message templates. But for now, just click on the button itself. Type your own email address in the 'To' field – you'll send an email to yourself to check that everything is working correctly. Enter a subject, for example 'Test Message', and in the body area just type a short message. From the File menu you can click Send to send your message now if you're online. Alternatively, if you're working offline click Send Later. This allows you to create more messages if you want, and have them ready for sending when you're ready to log on to the Net.

3 Sending, receiving & reading email



SENDING & RECEIVING MAIL

To send and receive mail, connect to the Net, then click the Send and Receive button. This will check for mail and download any new messages, at the same time sending any outgoing messages you have created. Once the program has stopped receiving mail, you can disconnect from the Net if you wish, to save phone costs. Click on In Box to the left of the screen to access the messages you have received. Click on the message to read its contents.



MORE EMAIL HELP AND ADVICE @ www.thenet.co.uk/helpbutton/

- ★ Sending your first message
- ★ Newsgroup etiquette
- ★ Members-only bulletin boards
- ★ Web forums

Newsgroups

Learn how to take part in these free online discussion groups covering just about every subject under the sun

What is a newsgroup?

Newsgroups are one of the older services on the Net. Each group is like a bulletin board – anyone can post messages to different newsgroups, and anyone can read the postings. There are tens of thousands of different newsgroups subjects available, so there's bound to be one that matches your interests – whether you're looking for info on beekeeping or bookkeeping, computers or comics, sewing or sailing.

Why should I use newsgroups?

Although the Web has plenty of information on most subjects, newsgroups often have more detailed answers to questions. If you have a specific question on a subject, you can have half a dozen responses within a couple of hours.

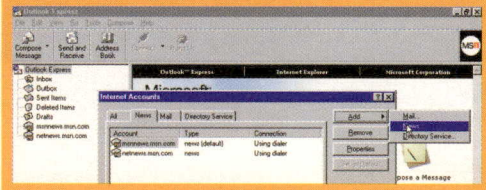
BEGINNER'S TIP

If you don't want to go to the bother of configuring Outlook Express or other newsgroup access software, visit DejaNews **www.deja.com** – a Web-based interface to newsgroups. You can read and send messages from here, all via your Web browser. Simple.

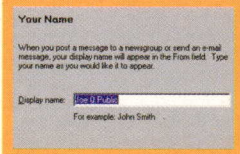
ADVANCED TIP

Your ISP will provide you with its own news server access. Mick's Place at **web.ukonline.co.uk/mick.sz/** has over 50 free access news server addresses. To add more servers to Outlook Express, go through the setting up steps outlined below.

Accessing newsgroups using Outlook Express

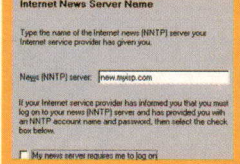


1 Go to the Accounts entry in the Tools menu, click on the News tab to list your current news accounts (if any), hit Add and choose News.

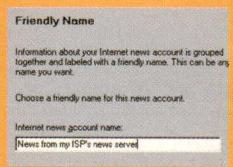


2 Type in your name. This will be displayed in any message you post to a newsgroup. Then hit Next.

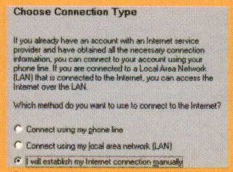
3 Type in your email address. This, will be displayed in any message you post. Then click Next.



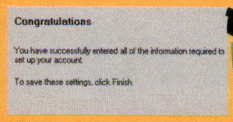
4 Enter the name of your ISP's server which should be given in your user documentation.



5 Give the news server a name that makes sense to you.

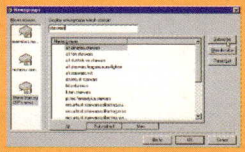


6 Tell Outlook Express that you will dial your ISP manually before you start reading news.

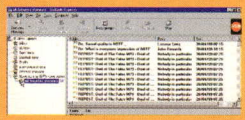


7 And you're done! You have now set up a newsgroup access account. Now let's see how to use it.

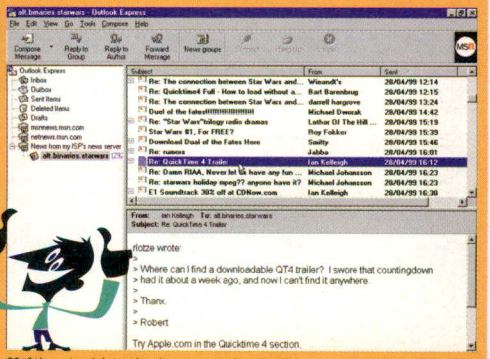
8 After hitting Close, you're asked if you want to download your ISP's list of newsgroups. When you click Yes, the list will be downloaded – so make sure you're online. This can take up to 10 minutes to do when you first connect to your news server because you are downloading the names of thousands of newsgroups.



9 Once all the newsgroups are downloaded, you can explore. If you want to find *Star Wars* postings, for example, type 'starwars' into the text field at the top of the window to display all newsgroups containing that word. You can subscribe to as many groups as you want.



10 To access a message inside a newsgroup, click on the subject header to read a summary. Double click the subject header and the whole message downloads appearing on the lower half of the screen.



11 If there is a '+' sign by the message header this means there are replies to this message which you can also read. Click on the '+' sign to list the replies.

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